





## 2 Home & Middle East News

Jordan Times, Monday, May 18, 1998

# Arafat heads to Oslo for meeting, reported talks with Barak

Sheikh Yassin refused visa to South Africa, Arafat visits in August

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian National Authority (PNA) President Yasser Arafat left Sunday for Oslo to attend a meeting of the Socialist International and reportedly have talks with Israeli opposition leader Ehud Barak.

Mr. Arafat will be in the Norwegian capital Sunday and Monday to attend the meeting of social democratic movements and hold talks with Norwegian officials, his office said.

Israeli media reported that Mr. Arafat would also meet

with Mr. Barak in Oslo later Sunday, their first direct encounter in several months.

The Yedioth Aharonot newspaper said Mr. Barak, head of the Israeli Labour Party, would urge Mr. Arafat to do his utmost to prevent new outbreaks of violence in the Palestinian territories following clashes with Israeli troops last week which left five Palestinians dead and scores wounded.

Before leaving, Mr. Barak told reporters that Mr. Arafat remained the central partner for

the peace process and he criticised Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for the 14-month-old stalemate in peace negotiations.

Meanwhile, Mr. Arafat is to pay a state visit to South Africa in August, South African President Nelson Mandela's office said Sunday.

Mr. Arafat would brief Mr. Mandela on the Middle East peace process and discuss bilateral relations, said Mr. Mandela's spokesman, Parks Mankahlana.

The visit, Mr. Arafat's first to South Africa since he attended Mr. Mandela's inauguration in 1994, would last more than a day. The exact dates had not been fixed.

The announcement comes after the spiritual leader of Hamas, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, failed to get a visa to visit South Africa earlier this month.

South Africa is understood to have bowed to PNA fears over the effect Sheikh Yassin's visit would have on the Mideast peace process.

## Iraq says India has right to acquire nuclear bombs

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's ruling party on Sunday supported India's nuclear tests, saying the South Asian superpower has as much right as the five declared nuclear powers to possess the arms.

"We cannot see how anyone can ask India not to develop nuclear weapons and its long-range missiles at a time it is like any other big state with its human and scientific potential," the Baath Party's newspaper, Al Thawra, said.

The commentary is Iraq's first reaction to the five nuclear tests India conducted last week. The explosions triggered a storm of

international criticism.

India has refused to sign a global disarmament treaty, saying it unfairly gives the five declared nuclear powers — the United States, France, China, Britain and Russia — the right to keep their nuclear weapons while demanding others to dismantle theirs.

India says it wants full disarmament by all countries.

"When superpowers give themselves the right to conduct nuclear tests and keep huge arsenals of nuclear bombs they lure other countries to follow suit, overtly or covertly," Al Thawra said.

It also pointed out that Israel

maintains a nuclear arsenal that, although never officially acknowledged, is believed to contain about 100 warheads.

Al Thawra said Arab countries should not remain idle at a time when Israel's arsenal contains all sorts of weapons of mass destruction and means of their delivery.

Iraq also had an advanced clandestine nuclear programme before the 1991 Gulf war over Kuwait. Under the ceasefire conditions, it had to scrap the programme, which according to U.N. weapons inspectors was only a year away from producing a bomb.

Besides the nuclear pro-

gramme, Iraq must also dismantle its chemical and biological weapons programmes before U.N. trade sanctions imposed to punish its 1990 invasion of Kuwait are lifted.

Meanwhile, the Sunday issue of a Baghdad weekly, owned by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's eldest son, Uday, said India has agreed to enroll several groups of Iraqi engineers "in advanced technological courses" scheduled for mid-July. It did not elaborate.

Relations between Iraq and India have traditionally been friendly.

## Algerian journalist sentenced to year in jail

GENEVA (R) — An Algerian journalist has been sentenced to a year in jail, three days after being arrested in Algeria as he prepared to fly to a media conference in Geneva, conference organisers said on Sunday.

Al Kadi Ihsane, 39-year-old former editor of the Algerian newspaper La Tribune, was at no time prior to the sentencing informed of the charges against him or given access to a lawyer, the Geneva-based International Centre for Humanitarian Reporting said.

Mr. Al Kadi, who had been arrested on Wednesday, was brought before a judge on Saturday and told that he had been sentenced earlier this year to 12 months in jail, on charges of having insulted or threatened the former director of the newspaper L'Horizon in 1993.

Mr. Al Kadi's lawyers said he was aware of neither the arrest warrant nor the sentence in absentia. He had been working in Algeria and signing articles with his own name, indicating that he was not attempting to hide from the authorities.

## Aziz in Rome on mission to get U.N. sanctions dropped

ROME (AFP) — Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz arrived in Rome Sunday for talks with Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi as part of a diplomatic offensive by Iraq to lift U.N. economic sanctions.

Mr. Aziz is on a European tour to seek what he has called a "rigorous and fair interpretation of United Nations resolutions so that sanctions against Iraq can be lifted."

Mr. Aziz will also meet Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini and other government leaders. He arrived from Paris where he was received by French President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister

Lionel Jospin.

Iraq is demanding an end to the sanctions, imposed on Baghdad for its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

But the embargo will be lifted only after U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) inspectors verify that Iraq has eliminated its long-range missiles and weapons of mass destruction. Iraq says it has fulfilled the conditions.

Mr. Aziz said in an interview Saturday it was "important that the U.N. objectively assess what has been accomplished" in dismantling Iraq.

However, Mr. Aziz said that UNSCOM has "expanded its

demands" and these demands "have nothing to do with disarmament."

Speaking on Radio Monte Carlo's Arabic service he said Iraq was ready for a rapprochement with fellow Arab countries "without exception."

"Our hand is extended and our mind is open for any dialogue to arrive at an understanding with Arab brothers without exception."

Mr. Aziz urged U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan at a surprise meeting in Paris last Tuesday to help to overcome obstacles delaying the lifting of U.N. sanctions.

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16:30 ..... Doc. — Last Frontiers  
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St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590

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## WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology  
Warm weather conditions will prevail with clouds appearing at different altitudes, and winds southeasterly moderate to active. In Amman, it will be hot and dusty, winds southerly moderate, and seas rough.

Min/Max temp.  
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Aqaba ..... 23/39  
Deserts ..... 17/36  
Jordan Valley ..... 21/39

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Amman 31, Aqaba 37 Humidity readings: Amman 14 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.

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Dr. Sa'ad Tawfiq ..... 788285  
Dr. Youssef Nasser ..... 751144  
Dr. Khalil Ramadan ..... 774397  
Firas pharmacy ..... 5661912

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

AMMAN:		OVERSEAS CALLS		HOSPITALS	
Al Asema pharmacy	5347632	Central Amman Telephone	010230	AMMAN:	
Nairouth pharmacy	4623672	Repairs	4623101	The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery	5921199
Al Salam pharmacy	4636730	Abdali Tel. Repairs	5661101	The Islamic, Abdi	5666131/7
Yacoub pharmacy	4644945	Jordan Television	773111	Hussein Medical Centre	5856856
Shmeisani pharmacy	4637660	Radio Jordan	774111	Luzmila	4630195
Najib pharmacy	5347632	Water Authority	5680100	Khalidi Maternity	4644281/6
IRBID:		J. Electricity Authority	815615	Akileh Maternity	4642441/2
Dr. Mazen Abu Bakr	276802	Electric Power Co.	463638	Jabal Amman Maternity	4642362
Al Quds pharmacy	(—)	RJ Flight Information	44-53200	Malhas, J. Amman	4636140
ZARQA:		Queen Alia Intl. Airport	44-53200	Palestine, Shmeisani	5607071
Dr. Rafiq Attallah	994424			Shmeisani Hospital	5669131
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417			University Hospital	5353444
EMERGENCIES		FOR THE TRAVELLER		Al-Muasher Hospital	5667227/9
Food Control Centre	4637111	QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT		Al-Ahli, Abdali	5664164/6
Civil Defence Department	5661111	This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (44)53200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone 44 (53200).		Al-Bashir	7751112/5
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue	4630341	ARRIVALS		Army, Marka	8916116
Civil Defence Emergency	199	Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights		Queen Alia Hospital	5602240/50
Rescue Police 192, 4621111, 4637701		07:45 Sanaa (RJ)		Arnal Hospital	5607155
Fire Brigade	4617101	DEPARTURES		Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights	
Blood Bank	775121	06:45 Beirut (RJ)		11:45 Frankfurt, London (RJ)	
Highway Police	843402	09:30 Damascus (RJ)		12:20 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)	
Traffic Police	896390	09:45 Jeddah (RJ)		12:45 Kuwait (RJ)	
Public Security Dept.	4630321	10:25 New Delhi (RJ)		13:15 Cairo (RJ)	
Hotel Complaints	5605800	10:50 Beirut (RJ)		21:15 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)	
Price Complaints	5661176	17:05 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)		21:40 Damascus (RJ)	
Water & Sewerage Complaints	897467	17:30 London (RJ)		21:45 Abu Dhabi (RJ)	
Amman Municipality Complaints	7751112	17:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)		22:15 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)	
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121	18:45 Kuwait (RJ)		23:40 Sanaa (RJ)	
HOSPITALS		19:00 Bangkok (RJ)		Other Flights	
AMMAN:		01:30 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)		06:15 Istanbul (TK)	
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery		03:50 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)		06:35 Lamaca (CY)	
Surgery		Other Flights		07:30 Paris (AF)	
The Islamic, Abdi		10:30 Cairo (MS)		08:20 London (AF)	
Hussein Medical Centre		14:10 Bahrain (GF)		08:45 Beirut (ME)	
Luzmila		15:05 Vienna (OS)		11:30 Cairo (MS)	
Khalidi Maternity		15:40 Doha (QR)		15:00 Bahrain (GF)	
Akileh Maternity		19:05 Khartoum (SD)		15:50 Vienna (OS)	
Jabal Amman Maternity		19:45 Frankfurt (LH)		16:30 Doha (QR)	
Malhas, J. Amman		22:15 Istanbul (SD)		16:45 Istanbul (SD)	
Palestine, Shmeisani		23:45 Athens, Beirut (OA)		20:45 Dubai (EK)	
Shmeisani Hospital		01:30 Amsterdam, Damascus (EK)		23:10 Tel Aviv (LY)	
University Hospital		Other Flights		23:15 Khartoum (SD)	
Al-Muasher Hospital		10:30 Cairo (MS)		02:30 Amsterdam (KL)	
Al-Ahli, Abdali		14:10 Bahrain (GF)		Royal Wings (RW)	
Al-Bashir		15:05 Vienna (OS)		08:00 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)	
Army, Marka		15:40 Doha (QR)		20:45 Tel Aviv (from QAIA) (RW)	
Queen Alia Hospital		19:05 Khartoum (SD)		21:30 Aqaba (from QAIA) (RW)	
Arnal Hospital		19:45 Frankfurt (LH)			
		22:15 Istanbul (SD)			
		23:45 Athens, Beirut (OA)			
		01:30 Amsterdam, Damascus (EK)			

## Israel, U.S. in joint missile project

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli state defence firm Rafael and Lockheed Martin of the United States signed an agreement Sunday to explore possible joint development of new generations of air-to-air missiles, the companies announced.

The memorandum of agreement, signed at Rafael's Tel Aviv headquarters, focuses initially on development of new weapons based on Rafael's Python 4 missiles, they said in a statement.

The two companies already jointly produce and market since 1996 the Popeye air-ground missile, which has generated sales of \$400 million.

"Rafael's expertise in the development of advanced weapons systems and the ability of Lockheed Martin to market them internationally will be mutually beneficial to both companies," said Rafael President Yitzhak Gat.

Joseph Antinucci, president of Lockheed Martin Electronics and Missiles, added that the new deal was "an important follow-up" to the Popeye agreement.

## Confiscated land to be returned to Coptic Church

CAIRO (AFP) — The Egyptian authorities have approved the return of nearly 160 hectares of confiscated land to the Coptic church, government and church officials said here Sunday.

They said negotiations to return more than 240 hectares would take place next week between representatives of the Coptic church and ministry of religious endowments.

"The return of 387 feddans [nearly 160 hectares] has been approved," Adel Megahed, information officer for the ministry of religious endowments, or 'Awkal, told AFP.

The return of 112 feddans was approved in 1997 with the return of 275 feddans located across 11 governorates approved in recent weeks, Mr. Megahed said.

The head of the Coptic church, Pope

Sbeouda III, said in statements published Sunday that church and government representatives would meet next week to discuss the return of an additional 696 feddans of land.

Pope Shenuda, quoted by the Coptic weekly Watani, said a joint committee comprising representatives from the ministry and the church began meeting 16 months ago to solve the problem of confiscated land.

According to Mr. Megahed, the Coptic authority of religious endowments initially filed a petition to the Egyptian authorities for the return of 1,362 feddans of land.

Some of the land was confiscated under agrarian reforms in the 1950s while Pope Shenuda said the church has been trying to repossess confiscated land for a long time.

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## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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## Queen inaugurates children's mobile museum and library

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor on Sunday inaugurated a children's mobile science museum and library at Al Bassa secondary girl's school, according to a press release.

Queen Noor expressed her appreciation for the Shoman Foundation's generous donation of a 4,000 book library — a major new component of the mobile museum, which has toured the country since 1990.

Queen Noor established Jordan's first Children's Heritage and Science Museum in 1986 in cooperation with the Haya Arts Centre in Amman. The first of its kind in the Arab World, this hands-on recreational and educational museum for four- to twelve-year-olds teaches children about natural history, geography, the environment, outer space and the diverse cultures of the world, the statement said.

During Their Majesties' state visit to Germany in 1988, the Mercedes Company donated a 14-wheel truck to the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), which in cooperation with the Haya Cultural Centre, established a Mobile Life and Science Museum as an outreach programme designed especially for rural children.

The museum's exhibits focus on health and hygiene, the sciences, environmental protection and the history of Jordan. It also features a library, a travelling theatre, and video presentation facilities, the announcement added.

The opening of the mobile museum was in Mawraq village in 1990 and since then, the museum has annually visited around 50 villages and cities throughout the country benefiting 20,000 students.



PRINCESS ALIA VISITS CHARITABLE SOCIETY: HRH Princess Alia Al Faisal talks to several children during a visit to St. Vincent's Charitable Society. She was briefed by officials on the society's activities and the living conditions of its children. The society was established in 1958 with the purpose of helping the poor (Petra photo).

## Consumers' rights group asks for law to organise merchant activity

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Consumers Protection Society (JCPS) Sunday urged the government to enact an anti-trust law that would help organise relations among merchants and between business and the government.

JCPS President Mohammad Obeidat said this suggestion was based on several studies the society conducted in the first four months of this year covering prices of food commodities, services such as maintenance of electrical appliances, water, vegetables, fruit and red meat, among others.

He pointed out that many countries which have floated prices took the prior step of passing laws to prevent monopolies and encourage competition among merchants.

Dr. Obeidat called on the government to protect consumers by enacting a law that would give them the right to choose from among the various commodities, buy safe goods, enable consumers to have access to accurate product information and enable consumers to compensation.

The JCPS has finalised a draft consumers protection law and will submit it to the concerned authorities for approval, he said, noting that in drawing up the law the society studied similar laws in developed nations like Britain, the U.S., France and China.

He also called on the government to set up a higher committee of all concerned parties to address the question of rising prices.

Dr. Obeidat announced that the society will organise a conference on consumers' rights involving public and private sector organisations from the regional and international levels.

The conference will offer an opportunity to evaluate the JCPS' endeavours over the past eight years to defend consumers' rights, according to Dr. Obeidat.

It will also offer a chance for Arab states without consumer protection groups to benefit from Jordan's experience, he added.

## Women's union launches campaign to raise legal marriage age

By Francesca Ciriaci  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Women's Union (JWU) has launched a campaign to raise the legal marriage age to 18 for both sexes, from the current 15 for women and 16 for men.

After all aspects of the issue have been taken into consideration through studies, seminars and public debates, the JWU will submit its recommendations to the Jordanian National Committee for Women (JNCW), which will formulate an official proposal to the government.

According to JNCW Secretary General Amal Sabbagh, the initiative is the first of its kind, though the pros and cons of raising the legal marriage age, set by a 1976 law, have already been discussed in the past.

Supporters of the proposal have pointed out that since 18 is considered the minimum age for the exercise of most political and civil rights, such as voting, the same criterion should be applied to marriage.

They have also said early marriages would considerably increase the rate of early pregnancies, one of the main causes of prenatal and maternal health complications.

Furthermore, Jordan ratified in 1991 the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, which sets the limit of childhood at 18.

Early marriages, doctors and social workers warn, could also make birth-spacing, the first government-promoted method for containing Jordan's high growth population rate, less effective.

According to the latest official figures, Jordan's annual population growth rate stands at approximately 4.5 per cent. Statisticians, however, say that much of it can be attributed to forced migration as a result of the 1990-1991 Gulf war. Nonetheless, the Kingdom's 4.5 million population is expected to double by 2011, and supporters of a raised legal marriage age say that early marriages would be an obstacle to government population policies.

A report published last week in the Arabic daily Al Ra'i stated that early marriages are also among the first causes of divorce.

According to the report, 86 per cent of divorces occur among couples who tied the knot before the age of 21.

On the other hand, "the debate on whether raising the marriage age has also touched on economic aspects," Ms. Sabbagh said.

Those against a raise in the marriage age have pointed out that for many poor families, "marrying off" their young girls as soon as possible represents a relief from an economic burden which would seriously hinder the well-being of other family members.

However, advocates of an increase in marriage age argue that young men below 18 are in most cases unable to support a family, hence early marriages would not help alleviate poverty but simply transfer young girls from a condition of poverty in their home to one of poverty in their husband's home.

According to the Department of Statistics, however, the increase in age of first-time spouses is already an existing trend in Jordanian society.

Due to the economic development and higher education levels, the average age at first marriage increased in the period 1979-1994 from 26 to 27.9 for men, and from 21 to 24.7 for women.

## Continued interrogations of bombing suspects

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The State Prosecution is continuing its interrogation of a group of "fundamentalists" suspects allegedly involved in a series of recent bombings and arson attacks in Amman, judicial sources said Sunday.

The government last week said the State Security Court would charge the eight suspects, including one still at large, after the interrogations end.

Members of the foreign-funded group, which calls itself the "Challenge and Reform Group," have allegedly told interrogators they were bent on tarnishing Jordan's security and stability through attacks on state symbols and security officials as part of a "drive to reform" the country.

Local dailies said the suspects confessed to plotting three main "terrorist" attacks against security "symbols" in addition to arson attacks on a school and a hotel.

The March and April blasts caused no deaths or injuries.

Last week, five of the suspects who confessed to murdering the attacks re-enacted the planting of a fire-bomb in the parking lot of a four-star hotel in Amman and another one under the car of former General Intelligence Department chief Mohammad Rasoul Kilani.

The suspects allegedly admitted that they planned locally-made bombs at the Modern American School, at the Highway Patrol headquarters, under the car of Mr. Kilani, in a garbage container near the house of former Minister of Interior Jawdat Stouf and in the Jerusalem International Hotel parking lot.

"Jordanian police" said last week they arrested Abdul Nasser Abu Shanab, an Egyptian suspected of heading the group.

A source, who requested anonymity, told AFP on Thursday that investigations had revealed that the group received funds from a Jordanian of Palestinian origin living in the United States.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

Crown Prince inspects army division

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Crown Prince Hassan paid an inspection tour to several units of the Fifth Royal Armoured Division, where he was briefed by the division's officers on its duties and activities. Prince Hassan watched training drills and voiced his appreciation of the Armed Forces. He also called at Jabot town, in the Mafrqa governorate, where he met with local citizens.

Majali calls for providing better health services

SOUTHERN SHUNEH (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Sunday visited South Shuneh Hospital, where he called for extending better health services to citizens. Dr. Majali said the government will exert every possible effort to develop hospitals and equip them with the latest technology and provide them with qualified personnel.

## Lawzi: Al Quds Al Arabi ban not final

By Alia Shukri Hamzeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Acting Minister of Information Nasser Lawzi on Sunday said the government's recent decision to ban the London-based Al Quds Al Arabi newspaper was not final.

He told the Jordan Times that the government and Bassam Badarine, Amman correspondent for Al Quds Al Arabi, are attempting to resolve the ban, which was prompted by the newspaper's coverage of Jordanian news.

"The government decision to ban Al Quds Al Arabi came in response to a number of articles in the newspaper that were clearly targeting Jordan and its policies," said Mr. Lawzi.

Al Quds Al Arabi was barred from entering the Kingdom last Tuesday on orders from the Press and Publications Department (PPD).

PPD Director Bilal Tal was quoted by the local dailies this week as saying that the ban was only enforced "after making every attempt to open dialogue with the paper's bureau in Amman to ensure commitment to principles of professionalism, objectivity and neutrality," and to stop the paper's repetitive violations of the law.

"Our demand is that Al Quds Al Arabi's Amman bureau deal with Jordan's issues on neutral and objective grounds," he was quoted as saying by Al Ra'i.

Mr. Badarine denied that his coverage of Jordanian affairs was biased since, he said, only four editions of the newspaper were confiscated for stories originating from Amman while the other 54 confiscated editions carried stories and articles from other sources.

"I challenge anyone to come up with any story that has false information about Jordan," Mr. Badarine said.

The PPD filed a case against Mr. Badarine on March 16 for allegedly "distorting the image of Jordan abroad and harming ties between Jordan and friendly countries, and insulting the country's dignity."

The charges, according to Mr. Badarine, were based on a series of 12 articles that were published several months ago and dealt with the relationship between the government and the Islamist-led opposition during and after the Nov. 4 parliamentary elections.

Meanwhile, the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), sent a letter to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali expressing "grave concern" over the ban on Al Quds Al Arabi.

The letter said "Al Quds Al Arabi has been the target of repeated government harassment over the past year, and that dozens of issues were confiscated due to what authorities deemed as unfavourable coverage of political affairs in the Kingdom."

"The CPJ views the government-imposed ban on Al Quds Al Arabi as a flagrant violation of the right to seek, receive, impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers, as guaranteed by Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

## First stage of project to increase Amman's water supply completed

By Ahmad Khatib  
Special to the Jordan Times

ZAI — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday marked the completion of the first stage of a major project to improve the process of supplying water to Amman and the nearby Balqa governorate.

The project is based on rehabilitating the water network of both areas, home to over 1.5 million of Jordan's 4.5 million people, and improving the transfer of water from the King Abdullah Canal via the Balqa-based Zai water pumping station.

Japan funded the \$11.3 million first stage of the project, which helped replace water pumps in the four stations situated between Deir Allah in the Jordan Valley and the Zai water treatment plant.

At a ceremony held here, Dr. Majali turned the water tap on, signalling the beginning of the project.

The improvement will ensure 45 million cubic metres of water a year, much of which is normally wasted through leakage in water pipes.

Koichi Matsumoto, Japan's ambassador to Jordan, said the project aims at solving two main challenges hindering water pumping to Amman.

"One is the gap between available water resources and the demand for them. This problem is attributed to the arid climate and rising population. With the increase of the population, water demand for domestic use as well as agriculture accelerates... water scarcity," he said. "The other problem is the elevation of greater Amman, which makes it imperative to enhance the pumping facilities to ensure sufficient water supplies," he added.

He said the Deir Allah-Zai system was not able to fulfil its capacity because of the low quantities of available water resources and its superannuated system.

"Japan will continue to extend support to Jordan in the field of water and other basic humanitarian needs in order to improve the Kingdom's living standards and promote peace in the region," Mr. Matsumoto stated.

Munther Haddadin, minister of water and irrigation, said the launching of this phase will improve the water pumping capacity by 20 per cent.

The overall project will increase the amount of water pumped to Amman through the King Abdullah Canal to 90 million cubic metres by the year 2002.

"Despite some hardships encountered in the implementation, we are confident that we will find the optimum solution in consultation with our development partners," Dr. Haddadin said.

According to Munther Khleifat, secretary general of the Water Authority of Jordan, the second stage of the project will include expanding the pumping capacity of the Zai station to 90 million cubic metres a year at a total cost of JD67.5 million. He said JD50 million will be provided by Japan's government, JD14 million by Germany and JD3.5 million from the Jordanian government.

In 1985, Jordan started the project of drawing water from the King Abdullah Canal to the Amman and Balqa areas, and in 1992 it provided 36 per cent of pumped water to Amman and 17 per cent to Balqa.

## Canadian doctors hoping to use seminar to promote peace

By Mohammad Ben Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A group of Canadian doctors trying to promote peace through science hope a two-day controversial audiology seminar which opened in Amman on Sunday will help promote their goals.

"There are two major objectives for this seminar: first, to bring benefit to people and second, to build relationships that will in turn grow to bring benefits to people in Jordan and the region," said Professor Arnold M. Noyek from the Canadian International Scientific Exchange Programme (CISEPO), the group organising the international meeting in conjunction with the Royal Medical Services (RMS).

But the Jordan Medical Association (JMA), combating any form of normalisation with the Jewish state, has asked its members to boycott the seminar because doctors from Israel are attending.

Dr. Noyek reacted to the JMA's call to boycott the seminar by saying that "professional societies serve their profession by obtaining an 'openness of mind' attitude, dialogue and communica-

tions rather than taking an opinion and walking away with it."

The Third International Audiology and Otology Symposium opened under the patronage of Major General Youssef Goussous, head of the RMS.

The conference is focusing on prevention, detection, assessment and management of hearing loss as well as dizziness and imbalance related to hearing problems.

It is being attended by 25 doctors from Israel, Egypt, the RMS, Jordanian non-governmental organisations and the four Canadian members of CISEPO.

Jordan is the first leg of a regional tour that will take the CISEPO doctors to Israel and the Palestinian self-rule areas, where they will give lectures on audiology.

"Jordan will attend these conferences represented by the army as well as the private sector," Prof. Noyek said. "Disease does not have boundaries."

Other participants in the meeting held similar views. "I, as a Jordanian, would participate with dignity and quality," said Manal Hamza, director of the Specialised Audiology Centre.

The JMA has threatened to take "punitive measures" against any member who does not comply with the association rules banning any form of contact with Israelis or visits to Israel as part of efforts by the 12-member professional associations to halt normalisation with Israel under the 1994 peace treaty.

His Majesty King Hussein has constantly called for the professional associations to stay away from politics and concentrate on upgrading professional standards.

CISEPO's major objectives include contributing to enhancing peace and security as well as to enriching academic medicine and health care, particularly in the region.

In 1996, a professional meeting took place between Canadian, Jordanian and Israeli ear, nose and throat (ENT) specialists. In 1997 a trilateral, collaborative relationship among the medical communities of Canada, Israel and the Palestinian National Authority was established.

In 1997, CISEPO organised a workshop in Gaza and Nablus to facilitate screening, diagnosis and treatment of deaf children.

## Jordan, Syria continue discussions on dam project

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Syria on Sunday signed the minutes of discussions over the past two days on the construction of Al Wihdeh (unity) Dam on the Yarmouk River.

Dureid Mahasneh, secretary general of the Jordan Valley Authority and head of the Jordanian delegation to the joint committee talks, said the two sides agreed on sharing the Yarmouk River water and exploiting it for irrigation and for power generation.

Jordan's share of water from the projected dam will be used for irrigation and other purposes, while Syria will benefit from the water and the generated electric power, he said.

Dr. Mahasneh noted that the committee discussed the general environmental situation in the Yarmouk River Basin and ways to improve it.

The meeting was the third since a joint Syrian-Jordanian committee agreed in October 1997 to go ahead with plans to construct the estimated \$400 million dam.

Dr. Mahasneh said the two sides tackled questions related to the project's 1988 and 1998 feasibility studies, including differences in the two such as the dam's estimated cost.

He said the two sides hope that they can lower the project's "huge" cost and will seek Arab financing at an international fundraising conference to be held in Amman.

The dam, which will be built inside Syrian territory, is expected to be 100 metres high and to have a storage capacity of 225 million cubic metres, of which 150 million will be used for irrigation and drinking purposes in Jordan.

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation has estimated that the water deficit in Jordan will grow from 222 million cubic metres at present to 251 million by the year 2011.

## what's going on

**FILMS**

\* Two films entitled "Dr. Zhivago" and children's film "The Little Prince" at the British Council, Jabel Amman on Tuesday, May 19 at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday May 20 respectively.

\* "La Lien du Crime" at the French Cultural Centre, Jabel Weibdeh at 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

**THE FIRST UNIVERSITIES**

\* Theatre Festival "The Chair" (in Arabic) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:00 p.m.

\* Philadelphia University play "Slow Death" (in Arabic) at the Royal Cultural Centre on Tuesday, May 19, at 7:00 p.m.

**CONCERT**

\* Concert by Rula Talhouani at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m. (daily until May 21).

**LECTURE**

\* "The Challenges of Arab National Security" (in Arabic) by Dr. Haythem Al Kilani at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabel Amman at 6:30 p.m.

**ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION**

\* Private showing of works of art and jewellery (hosted by the American Women of Amman) at the Marriott Hotel on Tuesday, May 19 (6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.).

Monday, May 18, 1998

Israel U.S. in joint missile project

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli state defence, Rafael and Lockheed, of the United States, announced Sunday a possible joint development of new generations of missiles, the announcement said.

The memorandum, signed by Tel Aviv's Rafael and Lockheed, initially on developing new weapons for the U.S. and Israel, they said in a statement.

The two companies jointly produce since 1996 the Patriot missile, which has generated sales of \$1 billion.

"Rafael's experience in the development of weapons systems, the ability of Lockheed to market them, and the fact that both companies are based in the same country," Joseph Amman, of Lockheed Martin, said in a statement.

The new deal was not followed up by the agreement.

**N BRIEF**

amp from tournament

Buying champion

of Israeli soldiers

reported Sunday

the Israeli police

three years in

the village near Tel Aviv

had been an indication

to the tournament

in a combat

newspaper, "Imagined

person was organized

army took part" in the

a setting up of AIDS

of protesters in the

with police during

of a hospital for AIDS

reported Sunday

with Sheikh Hassan

the paper reported

in Turkey

of an Istanbul mosque

on Sunday

agency said

the Istanbul mosque

the was being taken

city in talks with

resident Ali Abdullah

in a meeting with

Nasser Nassar for the

to use the Palestinian

who are trying to divide

with Sheikh Hassan

Movement. Ham

**DEPARTURES**

Royal Jordanian (RJ) 1998

06:45 — Beirut

07:15 — Frankfurt, Germany

07:35 — Amsterdam, Netherlands

08:45 — Rome

11:30 — London

11:45 — Bahrain, Bahrain

11:55 — Dhaka, Bangladesh

12:40 — Abu Dhabi, UAE

13:45 — Dubai, UAE

14:40 — Amman

15:45 — Amman

16:45 — Amman

17:40 — Amman

18:45 — Amman

19:40 — Amman

20:45 — Amman

21:40 — Amman

22:45 — Amman

23:40 — Amman

Royal Wings (RW)

06:00 — Amman (from Amman)

06:45 — Amman (from Amman)

07:30 — Amman (from Amman)

08:15 — Amman (from Amman)

09:00 — Amman (from Amman)

09:45 — Amman (from Amman)

10:30 — Amman (from Amman)

11:15 — Amman (from Amman)

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## Pakistan P.M. says not worried by Indian N-test

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said Sunday his country would need no more than 26 hours notice to conduct a nuclear test but vowed he would not be rushed into any decision.

The official AFP news agency quoted Mr. Sharif as saying he was not worried by India's nuclear capability "because Pakistan has the same potential to conduct a nuclear test."

He told party workers of his ruling Muslim league: "We can prove our nuclear worth within 12 to 26 hours," APP reported.

His comment was the first time Mr. Sharif had given any time frame for the preparations required to carry out Pakistan's first nuclear test, and followed U.S. intelligence reports that one would be staged as early as Sunday to retaliate for the five by India.

Saturday Foreign Minister Ayub Khan told the BBC that a Pakistani test, which would unleash harsh economic sanctions, was "very close to certain", adding: "It is only a matter of time."

His remarks appeared more barbed than his prime minister, who Saturday kept worried western governments guessing about Pakistan's nuclear intentions, and wrote to the Group of Eight (G8) industrial states urging harsh action against India.

Sunday Mr. Sharif said the government was continuing to study whether the Hindu nationalist government in New Delhi would be punished to Islamabad's satisfaction.

"All options are open and we have not given up on this regard to anyone in this region," he said.

"We have not taken any decision in haste in this regard and we are monitoring the sharp reaction of the world towards India's nuclear explosion," APP quoted him as saying.

"We are studying the international scenario carefully and taking into account the situation judiciously arising as a result of (the) Indian nuclear test," Mr. Sharif denied reports in the Western media that Islamabad was trying to trade a commitment not to

test against debt relief or other financial support for its faltering economy.

"We are not looking for monetary gains," he said in remarks published in the Sunday Press. "There is no package which is being offered to Pakistan, nor have we offered any package to anybody."

Mr. Sharif appeared to be alluding to reports from the G8 summit in Birmingham which suggested that U.S. President Bill Clinton was linking a stalled jet fighter deal to Pakistani restraint.

U.S. officials told reporters that a decision against testing could resolve a dispute over 28 F-16 fighters for which Pakistan paid \$658 million in 1990, but which were not delivered as punishment for Pakistan's nuclear programme.

Western diplomats said they doubted whether such a trade-off would find favour in Islamabad, which is looking to a Mr. Clinton visit in November to unlock the deal.

The Pakistani government is waiting to see how hard the G8 summit comes down

on India, after expressing disappointment at a mere condemnation of the nuclear tests in a Saturday communiqué.

Pakistani officials said they wanted reassurance that U.S. sanctions, which have not been matched by key EU states Britain, France or Germany, would bite deep and long to hamstring the Indian economy.

Government officials have brushed off warnings of tough sanctions against any Pakistani test by saying that national security interests must come first.

Mr. Clinton said in a British television interview: "The firmer we are here, the more likely we are to be able to persuade Pakistan and perhaps other countries lining up behind Pakistan that they should not test, that they should not try to become public members of the nuclear club."

Asked about reports that Islamabad might explode its own device as early as the coming week, Mr. Clinton said that under U.S. law, he would have no choice but to impose sanctions.



This photograph released by the Indian government May 17 shows a crater and debris at the Shakti-4KS nuclear site after a nuclear device was detonated underground (AFP photo)

## Sanctions will not hit India's nuclear weapons programme

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India's top nuclear and military scientists Sunday said any trade sanctions would not affect India's nuclear weapons programme.

"Sanctions will not affect us in this field," said A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the architect of India's guided missile programme at a press conference addressed by India's top nuclear scientists.

The United States and Japan imposed substantial trade sanctions after India carried out a series of five nuclear tests last week, one

involving a thermo-nuclear device.

"Our nuclear programme is 100 per cent self-reliant. Nobody can throttle us technologically anymore," said Mr. Kalam.

"We were refused a super computer sometime back. Today we have it. We were also refused cryogenic technology. That will be ready in a few years."

"Once a challenge is given we have to do the job," the scientist told the news conference packed with Western and Indian journalists.

Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee said

last week India was ready to face up to sanctions for its five nuclear tests, which he said were conducted after much deliberation.

"If such steps are taken then we Indians will face it. We are ready for any difficulty," Mr. Vajpayee told reporters.

U.S. President Bill Clinton last week ordered tough sanctions on India. Japan, India's largest donor, joined in by suspending its 3.5 billion yen (\$26 million) annual grant aid and

development aid estimated at \$1 billion.

Sweden cancelled a three-year aid agreement with India worth \$119 million soon after Wednesday's tests and the Norwegian government said it was considering cuts in foreign aid.

But the Group of Eight (G8) industrial nations — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States — declined to impose joint sanctions at their summit in Britain Sunday.

## Lebed confident as voting begins in key Siberia election

KRASNOYARSK, Russia (AFP) — Maverick Russian nationalist Alexander Lebed was in confident mood Sunday as voting began in his run-off poll with incumbent Valery Zubov for the post of governor of the sprawling Siberian Krasnoyarsk region.

Opinion polls favoured Mr. Lebed, 48, the gravel-voiced retired general who took 45.1 per cent of the vote in the first round on April 26, against Mr. Zubov's 35.4 per cent.

"My abilities are far superior to theirs, which is why they want to steal my victory," said Mr. Lebed, who hopes the governor's post will relaunch his political career, and provide a powerbase from which to challenge the Moscow political establishment and his bid for the presidency.

Voting in Krasnoyarsk, which is four times the size of France, opened at 7:00 a.m. (2300 GMT Saturday), and polling stations were set to close at 11:00 p.m. (1500 GMT). Initial results were expected early Monday.

Electoral officials said turnout among the region's more than two million registered voters had reached 35 per cent half way through the voting day.

To encourage voters, local authorities laid out free public transport so that those spending the weekend away from home would come back to cast their ballots.

One crucial element in the run-off vote will be the choice of Communist supporters, who gave their candidate Piotr Romanov 13 per cent of the ballot in the first round.

The leadership of the Communist Party in Moscow has called on the electorate to vote for Mr. Zubov, 45, despite him being an economist firmly in President Boris Yeltsin's camp of market reformers.

"Zubov is weak, Lebed has a stronger character. I am voting for him because I no longer want to see people rummaging through dustbins and children playing in the gutters," said Anna Kazlova, a 60-year-old pensioner.

Mr. Lebed told foreign journalists he was confident that many voters would balk at supporting Mr. Zubov, whose governorship is seen as being disastrous.

"Seventy per cent of the Communists in the region will vote for me," he said.

He also played down speculation that he would run for president in 2000, insisting that his first priority was to sort out the economic crisis facing Krasnoyarsk.

"The precondition for running in the presidential election is the rebirth of the region. I'm going to concentrate on that and, when it's done, I'll think about the presidency."

Speaking on local television Friday, Mr. Lebed said it would take more than two years to turn Krasnoyarsk's fortunes around.

He also dismissed concerns that his rivals in the Kremlin might seek to undermine his governorship should he win Sunday's ballot.

"They would lose more than they would gain," he said.

Mr. Lebed, a strong critic of corruption in the Moscow establishment, came third in the first round of the 1996 presidential elections with a surprise 15 per cent of the vote.

Mr. Yeltsin promptly co-opted him in a thinly veiled attempt to ensure victory in the run-off vote, appointing him national security chief.

But despite negotiating an end to the bloodbath in Chechnya, Mr. Lebed fell out with Mr. Yeltsin's aides, notably the then Kremlin Chief of Staff Anatoly Chubais, and was sacked for overweening ambition and poor teamwork.

Sunday he denied charges that he was in the pocket of financial interests interested in controlling mineral-rich Krasnoyarsk, and defended the support his campaign had received from influential businessman Boris Berezovsky.

"I am independent. Boris Abramovich said he would support me, and that's as far as it goes," he said.

Bemoaning the complete absence of reforms in Krasnoyarsk over the last five years, Mr. Lebed pledged an audit of all the region's factories and greater public accountability.

Relaxed and confident, Mr. Lebed said he would spend the evening at the theatre and then stay up all night at his staff headquarters.



Former Rwandan Interior minister Seth Sendashonga talks to the press in a Nairobi hospital Feb. 27 where he was admitted after an assassination attempt. Sendashonga and his driver who have been working for the United Nations where shot dead Saturday (Reuters photo)

## Kenyan police hunt killers of Rwandan exile leader

NAIROBI (R) — An intensive operation has been mounted to track down gangsters who shot down former Rwandan Interior Minister Seth Sendashonga and his Kenyan driver in a Nairobi suburb Saturday, police said Sunday.

Nairobi Criminal Investigation Department (CID) chief Swaleh Slim told reporters: "They did not rob the victims of anything. Their mission was to kill."

The car used by the two gunmen was under guard Sunday at a police station near the scene of the attack. It had been abandoned only 200 metres from the busy road junction where the attackers struck, and little more than that distance from the modern Aga Khan hospital.

Mr. Swaleh said police had not yet identified the attackers, who were armed with an AK47 assault rifle. They made their escape on foot in a heavy rainstorm, as a massive traffic jam built up round the victims' car.

Other police officials said the attack was a "political assassination". Sendashonga, a Hutu, was interior minister in the government of the

mainly Tutsi Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) before he went into exile in Kenya three years ago. The RPF took power in Rwanda in 1994, after a wave of genocide in which at least 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and allied Hutus died.

Sendashonga survived a previous assassination attempt on the outskirts of Nairobi in June 1996 in which his nephew was critically wounded.

Sendashonga joined the RPF before it took power and became interior minister in July 1994. He was respected as a moderate Hutu opposed to the 1994 genocide.

He was sacked from his post in 1995 and went into exile in Kenya, from where he headed the leading moderate Rwandan opposition party in exile, the resistance forces for democracy.

From exile he pressed for international investigations into the many attacks that have taken place against Hutus in Rwanda in recent years.

Sendashonga's widow worked in Nairobi for the United Nations. Sendashonga was travelling in her car, bearing U.N. number plates, when he was killed.

## Indian villagers claim N-test side-effects

NEW DELHI (R) — Several residents of a village near India's nuclear-testing site have complained of nose-bleeds, skin and eye irritation, vomiting and loose bowels since last week's underground blasts, a report said Sunday.

The government has said that no radioactivity was released into the atmosphere over the Thar desert, in the western state of Rajasthan, as a result of its five tests.

But the Sunday statesman said that more than a dozen people from the village of Khetolai experience symptoms of contamination by radiation immediately after

the last two of the five devices were exploded Wednesday.

"The residents approached us, gave a list of affected persons," the paper quoted a district official as saying. "Most of them have complained of nose-bleeding, loss of appetite, irritation in skin and eyes."

"We will soon send a team of doctors to examine the affected villagers. Only then can we come to a conclusion. It could also be due to the rise in temperature," he said.

The paper said the people of Khetolai were convinced that the complaints were due to radiation exposure

and quoted one man as saying he was suffering nose-bleeds for the first time in his life.

Another man was worried about his 12-year-old daughter.

"She has been vomiting, bleeding through the nose and feeling restless for two days after the second explosion," the paper quoted the girl's father as saying.

"First we ignored it but when the number of victims rose we brought it to the notice of district and army officers."

Khetolai is one of seven villages dotted around the alpha firing range of the area called Pokhran.

## Cambodian police seize three tonnes of artefacts from smugglers

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Cambodian authorities seized three tonnes of ancient artefacts from antiquities smugglers, a newspaper reported Sunday.

Military police seized 3.2 tonnes of artefacts from a vehicle Saturday in the northwest province of Siem Reap, home to the famed 12th century Angkor Wat temples, according to the Khmer-language Rasmei Kampuchea (Light of Cambodia) newspaper.

The antiquities, including 14 Buddha heads, sculptures of traditional Apsara dancers and lion's heads, were buried beneath bricks in the back of a truck with military licence plates, the paper quoted.

Prak Chantheoun, the deputy military police chief of Siem Reap, was saying.

Prak Chantheoun said the authorities had been aware of the operation for some time, but waited to move until they were certain the antiquities could be seized.

At least one arrest — that of the truck owner — was made, according to the

paper which said the antiquities were believed to have been looted from ancient temples in Preah Vihear province.

The smugglers were believed to be taking the antiquities west to Banteay Meanchey province for export abroad, possibly to Thailand, the paper said.

Antiquities theft has become a major problem for Cambodia and experts have appealed not for more vigorous enforcement of smuggling laws but also for collectors to report suspect items on the market.

The 124-tonne cargo consists of five modules where cosmonauts live, work and carry out experiments. More than 100 cosmonauts and astronauts have visited Mir during its mission.

Two Russian cosmonauts, Talgat Musabayev and Nikolai Budarin, and NASA astronaut Andy Thomas are on Mir now.

In August, cosmonauts Gennady Padalko, Sergei Avdeev and a former senior aide to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Yuri Baturin, will be sent to Mir.

## Three killed in Kashmir in suspected rebel attack

SRINAGAR, India (AFP) — Suspected separatist rebels gunned down three Muslims, including a two-year-old boy, in a late night attack near troubled Kashmir's summer capital, police said Sunday.

Police said masked gunmen stormed into a home in the Srinagar suburb of Ganderbal around midnight Saturday and opened fire indiscriminately, killing the three and injuring two other people.

They said the attackers were probably Muslim guerrillas. More than 20,000 people have died in Indian Kashmir since 1989 when a Muslim secessionist drive intensified.

India accuses neighbouring Pakistan of fomenting the armed militant campaign in Kashmir, which holds part of the divided Himalayan province, but denies the charge but extends moral and diplomatic support to what it terms a legitimate expression for self-rule.

Rebel attacks in Kashmir have intensified since a full late last year.

## Cargo tug docks with Mir space station

MOSCOW (R) — A progress cargo spacecraft carrying fresh supplies for the ageing Mir orbiting station and equipment for new medical experiments successfully docked with Mir early Sunday, mission control said.

The Progress M-39 docked with Mir fine. It brought fuel, Oxygen and clothes for the cosmonauts, a mission control duty officer told Reuters by telephone from the town of Korolyov just outside Moscow.

"It also brought 15 Chinese salamanders and 60 snails. The cosmonauts will start medical experiments on them as soon as possible in order not to allow any of the creatures to die before then," he added.

The cargo also includes equipment for experiments with proteins as part of research to find a cure for cancer and ailments in the Human Immune System. Snails and salamanders are used for medical experiments on weightlessness.

The three-man crew in orbit were resting Sunday after the docking, which was carried out in automatic mode at 3:51 a.m.

(2351 GMT Saturday). Friday the crew cast off progress's redundant predecessor, packed with waste and unwanted equipment, and set it on a four-hour journey to burn up in the atmosphere. The fragments that survive reentry to the atmosphere fell into the ocean.

The Russian space agency has said Progress M-39's engines will be used to lower the Mir's orbit, a first step towards winding down its 12-year mission in space.

The duty officer could not confirm that.

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In August, cosmonauts Gennady Padalko, Sergei Avdeev and a former senior aide to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Yuri Baturin, will be sent to Mir.

## N. Korea urges Department to remains return

SEOUL (AFP) — North Korea this weekend urged the U.S. Department of Defense to return the remains of U.S. soldiers killed during the Korean war.

In a statement carried by the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), North Korea urged the U.S. to return the remains of U.S. soldiers killed during the Korean war.

The statement was the first official explanation of an incident last week in which the North broke with past practice and turned up the remains of U.S. soldiers killed in the 1950-53 war.

The remains had been found in a North Korean prison camp in May 1997. The North's failure to appear at the ceremony prompted a call for an explanation from the U.S. State Department.

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## Talks between Microsoft and U.S. regulators continue

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Talks between software giant Microsoft and U.S. federal antitrust lawyers deepened Saturday, as the way for a suit along with 20 others that will allege the company is an illegal monopoly that uses its right to crush all competition.

The talks Saturday had a final effort to end a court battle over a suit Microsoft was fighting. Microsoft's operating system — used in 80 per cent of all personal computers — is the world's most popular software.

The talks were "tendered" Sunday with no resolution, said Justice Department spokesman Gina Talamona. At this point they are expected to continue.

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## N. Korea urges Defence Department to take over remains return

SEOUL (AFP) — North Korea this weekend urged the U.S. Department of Defence to replace United Nations soldiers with U.S. troops when repatriating the remains of American soldiers killed during the Korean war.

In a statement carried by the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) late Saturday, Pyongyang also accused Washington of breaching an agreement on joint operations to discover the remains of U.S. servicemen killed in the 1950-53 war.

The statement was the first official explanation of an incident last week in which the North broke with past practice, and failed to show up at a ceremony at the truce village of Panmunjom to hand over the remains of two U.S. soldiers.

The remains had been recovered in North Pyongan province between April 21 and May 14.

The North's failure to appear at the ceremony prompted a call for an explanation from the U.S.-led United Nations Command (UNC), which along with North Korea, jointly guards Panmunjom under an armistice accord signed in 1953.

Previous transfers of the remains of U.S. soldiers have been made without problems through Panmunjom, despite Pyongyang's refusal to recognise the supervisory function of the UNC.

North Korea wants a

bilateral peace accord between Washington and Pyongyang to replace the 1953 armistice, bypassing Seoul.

KCNA Saturday quoted the spokesman for the North Korean military mission in Panmunjom as saying that last week's handover was thwarted by Washington's "unreasonable behaviour."

"The United States is invading the 'U.N. forces' in the repatriation of remains, a humanitarian issue which should be solved between (North Korea) and the United States, apparently for an ulterior political purpose."

"We are willing to render a sincere cooperation for the discovery operations, taking into account their humanitarian nature. But we will never accept the unreasonable demand prompted by a political purpose," the spokesman said.

He also demanded that the U.S. Defence Department stick to the letter of an agreement struck in New York in December last year and send a delegate to receive the remains at Panmunjom.

"From the technical point of view, the signatories to the agreement are (North Korea) and the United States and it is the Korean People's Army (KPA) and the U.S. Department of Defence that are implementing the agreement."

"So, the 'U.N. forces' have no reason to interfere in the transfer of the remains," he argued.

## Talks between Microsoft, U.S. regulators collapse

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Talks between software behemoth Microsoft and U.S. federal anti-trust lawyers collapsed Saturday, paving the way for a lawsuit along with 20 states that will allege the company is an illegal monopoly that uses its weight to crush all competition.

The talks Saturday had been a final effort to avert a court battle over whether Microsoft was using its Windows operating system — used in an estimated 80 per cent of all personal computers around the world — to force computer makers to install other Microsoft software.

The talks "ended (Saturday) with no resolution," said Justice Department spokeswoman Gina Talamona. "At this point they are not expected to resume."

Microsoft corporate spokeswoman Erin Brewer said the company "cannot agree to (the government's) core demands."

At the centre of the controversy is Windows 98, a new computer software operating system that is ready to go to the market.

Operating system software basically runs the computer, and provides the framework for other software to be used.

In the latest version Microsoft has merged the operating system with Explorer, its Internet browser.

The government however wants Microsoft to present alternate browsers, as well as stop displaying the Windows user interface when consumers turn on a new personal computer for the first time, the software giant said in a statement.

The Justice Department, 20 states and the District of Columbia had planned to go to court Thursday to charge Microsoft with breaking anti-monopoly

laws, but declined when the company reportedly came forward with concessions.

In the past, talks have been conducted personally by Microsoft chairman Bill Gates and the Justice Department's anti-trust chief Joel Klein.

The Redmond, a Washington-based company, said it would ship Windows 98 to computer makers Monday, and the operating system will be in the stores as scheduled on June 25.

The Justice Department could still seek an injunction against those shipments.

Microsoft competitor Netscape alleges that Microsoft uses its clout to force computer makers to install its Internet browser into Windows 95, the predecessor to Windows 98.

The Justice Department agrees, stating that such a move violates a consent decree reached with the government in 1995.

But Microsoft's Mr. Gates argues that any government interference would stifle innovation in the computer industry.

Microsoft's critics want the software giant restrained.

A failure to enforce anti-trust laws in the Microsoft case "would be a defeat for the competition in the computer industry," said Walter Adams, an economic professor at Michigan State University.

The outcome of the confrontation "will have a profound effect on the shape, the structure and the opportunities of the high-tech industry," said Mr. Adams, an anti-trust specialist.

## Authorities investigate hospital fire as death toll rises to 21

MANILA (AFP) — Philippine authorities Sunday launched an arson investigation into a Manila hospital fire that killed at least 21 people, most of them intensive care patients trapped in their beds.

Interior Secretary Epimaco Velasco said he had ordered fire marshal Carlito Romero to report on the pre-dawn fire Saturday that razed most of the Philippine Lung Centre building.

Mr. Velasco announced the inquiry as he visited the scene of the disaster in the Quezon City suburb.

A doctors' group, the Alliance of Health Workers, said the fire was linked to a government plan to sell the hospital, built by former first lady Imelda Marcos in 1982, to the private sector.

The death toll rose to 21 with the discovery of two charred bodies early Sunday. Fourteen people were trapped in the hospital's intensive care unit and not all of their bodies have been found, officials said.

Firefighters combed the smouldering ruins Sunday, but rescue workers said their job was hampered by the danger of a collapse.

A witness who entered the intensive care unit said he saw the charred remains of patients still on their beds.

"Their mouths were gaping and you could immediately see the agony they had to go through before they died," he said. "I saw twisted metal beds. The ceiling collapsed on the patients."

Some of the patients, who were on respirators, died when power failed during

the fire, officials said.

Remains were taken to a morgue, where forensic experts would attempt to identify them.

To make identification easier, firefighters placed tags on the beds and the cadaver based on their designated places before the fire broke out before dawn.

Disaster officials said they would verify if more people were trapped, citing a report by one rescuer that a dead body was seen near the hallway and another was inside a lift.

It was the worst fire in the capital since 1996 when 160 people were killed during a disco blaze.

Health Secretary Carmencita Reodica confirmed the planned privatisation, saying it was opposed by some groups

she did not identify.

The interior secretary said the fire marshal had a "theory" on the cause of the disaster but declined to give details. He described news reports of a deliberate fire as "prematernal."

Congressman Mario Ty, head of the House Committee on Health, called for an "intense" investigation.

"It is my opinion that probably there must be some sabotage here because of the fact that there is discontent among the workers knowing that the administration has plans to privatise this hospital," he told the DZBB radio station.

"I don't believe that it (the cause) is faulty wiring knowing that the building is constructed out of mostly concrete," he said.

## Cambodian opposition staying in election

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodia's opposition was expected to stay in the running for the July election for now, even though conditions for a free and fair vote are still not in place, party officials said Sunday.

Deposed co-Premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh and other Cambodian opposition leaders said in late April they were setting a May 18 deadline for what they said were minimum requirements necessary for a free and fair poll.

Party officials said Sunday no official decision on the matter had been reached but one said he did not expect a pull-out.

"I don't think there's going to be any boycott," said the senior opposition party official.

"We'll just proceed and see what happens. If it's not fair we can withdraw later," said the politician who declined to be identified.

The registration of voters for the crucial July 26 election is due to begin Monday and will run until June 15.

Another opposition party official said the National United Front (NUF) alliance, which groups Prince Ranariddh, prominent politician Sam Rainsy and two smaller parties, was expected to issue a statement on its participation in the election Monday.

"We're assessing the situation, none of our conditions have been met," the second party official said. "But we're very eager to take part. Only through elections can we have

change."

Prince Ranariddh won Cambodia's last election in 1993 but was toppled by his coalition government partner and co-premier, second Prime Minister Hun Sen, in July last year.

Hun Sen and his powerful Cambodian People's Party (CPP) control the security forces, local-level government and much of the media.

The NUF have alleged that the CPP was pressuring voters to register as members and to swear to vote for the party. It also alleged that the body organising the vote, the National Electoral Commission (NEC), were biased in favour of the CPP.

The opposition have also complained that the key body for judging con-

situtional disagreements and resolving electoral disputes, the constitutional council, had not yet been formed and the opposition was being denied access to the media.

The alliance also wanted votes in the election to be counted at the district or provincial level not in the villages where they will be cast.

Earlier this month Prince Ranariddh, to the anger of some of his opposition colleagues, agreed to a compromise proposal from Hun Sen to count votes at the commune level, one step up from the villages.

Hun Sen has denied the CPP was pressuring people to back it and he has issued numerous calls for a free and fair vote.

## The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan



### The Arab Potash Company Limited Invitation To Tender Contract No. APC/SP1/46/98 Salt Mushroom Dredging - SP1 2nd Stage

The Arab Potash Company Limited (APC) invites tenderers to tender for Dredging Works in Pan SP1 which forms part of the Solar System located at the southern end of the Dead Sea, Safi, Jordan. The scope of work to be carried out consists of dredging of Salt Mushroom, reefs and salt formations to a depth of 2.0m from the operation brine level of Pan SP1 with an approximate area of (30 km<sup>2</sup>). The dredged materials shall be used to construct salt dikes within the Pan SP1 by the contractor. It is expected that the contract period will be five years.

Interested Marine Dredging contractors having experience in similar works or hard materials dredging can tender to this contract, taking into consideration the following:

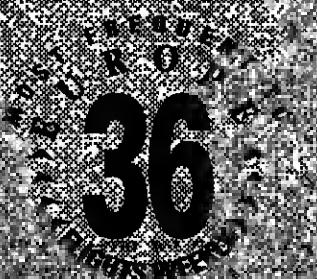
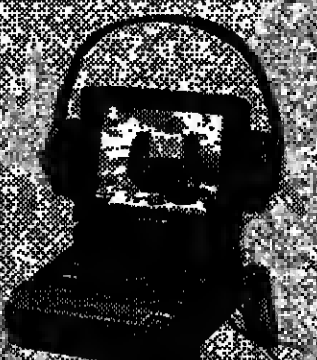
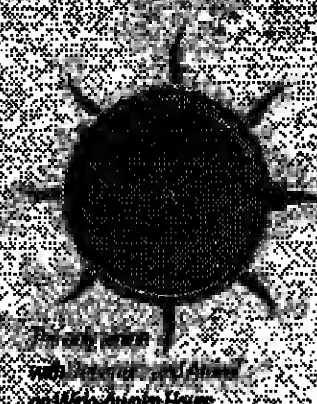
1. The Tender Documents can be purchased from the Procurement Department at APC's Head Office in Shmeisani, Amman, at a non-refundable fee of JD1,000 (One Thousand Jordanian Dinars) or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency for each set.
2. Tenderers must be accompanied by a Tender Bond from a bank licensed in Jordan in the form of a Bank Guarantee in the value of JD300,000 (Three Hundred Thousand Jordanian Dinars), in accordance with the specimen contained in the Tender Documents. The Tender Bond shall be valid for 165 (One Hundred and Sixty Five) days from the closing date of the Tender submission.
3. A site visit will take place on Monday, June 08, 1998, tenderers' representatives shall gather at 0800 hours Jordan local time at APC's Head Office in Shmeisani, Amman.
4. The closing date for submission of Tender shall be 12:00 noon Jordan local time, Tuesday, June 30, 1998. The validity of Tender shall be 120 (One Hundred and Twenty) days from the closing date of the Tender submission. Tenders to be submitted to APC's Head Office in Shmeisani, Amman.

For any clarification you may contact APC's Projects Manager on the following Plant Site address:

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General Manager

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## Numeira region in Southern Ghors starts to reveal more than Early Bronze Age walled towns

**Editor's note:** This is the second in a series of articles on the last 25 years of work in the Southern Ghors region along the south-east Dead Sea coast. Today's article examines the excavated Early Bronze Age town site of Numeira and some recently excavated adjacent sites. Upcoming articles will review the results of recent scholarly work at Safi, Feifeh, Khneizira, Ma'ara, and other sites in the area, and consider the question of whether the remains of the biblical cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and other Cities of the Plain may be located in this area.

**THE EARLY** Bronze Age walled town site of Numeira occupies the flat hilltop of a promontory next to the Dead Sea coastal highway, some 14 kilometres south of the Karak-Southern Ghors junction, at the point where Wadi Numeira enters the floor of the valley. Recent work in the area has identified and partly excavated sites from the Nabataean, Byzantine and Ayyubid-Mamluke periods, attesting to the archaeological wealth of an area that until recently had been largely renowned for its Early Bronze Age remains.

The American archaeologist Nelson Glueck, while inspecting the more easily visible Ruim en-Numeira in 1934, saw the remains of Numeira town site and recognised it as an ancient settlement, but did not appreciate its full significance. He passed through it briefly and picked up "a few indistinguishable sherds," noting "a large rectangular area with some traces of what may have been originally an enclosing wall." In 1973, the American scholars heading the Expedition to the South-East Dead Sea Plain in Jordan, Walter Rast and Tom Schaub, examined Numeira more closely and identified it as a walled town dating from the EB III period (c. 2750-2300 BC). Four seasons of excavations between 1977-1983 and more recent analyses of the excavated materials have shown that the walled town at Numeira existed for perhaps a century towards the end of the EB III period. It had close links with the bigger EB III city at Bab edh-Dhra'. Dr. Michael Coogan, who headed the last three



General view of Numeira townsite on its hilltop-promontory overlooking the Dead Sea plain; the people are standing in the area of the town's fortified tower at the east end of the site (Photos by Rami G. Khouri)

digging seasons at the site, sees Numeira as "almost a colony of Bab edh-Dhra', with clear cultural connections between the two sites," while Schaub says Numeira may be a "satellite" settlement reflecting the expansion of the Bab edh-Dhra' community towards the south. Among the shared cultural features between the two settlements are similar fortification walls; circular, flat-stone cooking areas; ceramic and flint tool repertoires; jar-based storage techniques; and agricultural systems that employed irrigation and crop rotation to grow barley, wheat, grapes, flax, olives, chickpeas, dates, lentils and figs.

### A single-period site

Unlike Bab edh-Dhra', Numeira seems to have been inhabited only during the EB III period, though there may have been an earlier EB I occupation east of Numeira, further up in the adjacent hills. After its destruction around 2350 B.C., the town site was abandoned and never again resettled.

The settlement measured just over one hectare in size, and was protected by a four-metre-thick stone and mud-brick town wall; the wall

was interrupted at seven-metre intervals by transverse sections — showing exactly the same EB III town wall engineering as that which was used at Bab edh-Dhra'. Within its walls, the town of Numeira consisted of scores of houses, typically comprising covered rooms built around an open courtyard (suggesting family-based organisation). The domestic units were arranged around a main street that crossed the town in an east-west direction.

The outlines of the street are still visible on the ground today. The house rooms seem to have had specialised uses, e.g., to store foodstuffs in large ceramic jars, pits or plastered bins; to cook or bake on one-metre-diameter circles of flat stones embedded in the ground; to prepare food; to repair and store ceramic jars; to weave; or to sleep. Peculiarly, most doorways were blocked with stones, apparently shortly before the final abandonment of the town after a violent earthquake. One theory sees the blocked doors as evidence that the inhabitants of Numeira may have anticipated the earthquake, and deliberately abandoned the town temporarily for the safety of nearby open areas.

Some scholars suggest the inhabitants may have emptied their houses of valuables (most storage pits were found empty, and no small finds, jewellery, gold or other precious items were recovered in the dig), blocked their doors for safety, cleared out the centre of the town (no dead bodies were found in the ashy debris of the final destruction within the walls), and evacuated the town, perhaps planning to return after the anticipated tremor.

Earlier ashy destruction levels suggest Numeira may have suffered a previous but milder tremor, after which it was rebuilt. There is possible evidence for this earlier calamity in the excavation of the east tower, a massive (10 x 7.4-metre) stone tower entered via a staircase which still had traces of plaster on its lower steps. Excavations showed the tower to be a later addition to the city's fortifications, perhaps reflecting a worsening security situation in the area around or just before 2400 B.C. The tower excavations also produced two different layers of burnt destruction debris with the remains of human victims, indicating that the city was twice destroyed — one destruction during its life

span, and another that finally brought the city to an end. If not from an earthquake, the earlier destruction may reflect military attacks during a period of political difficulties that required the addition of a major fortified tower to secure the town's defensive system.

Coogan believes Numeira was finally abandoned after extensive earthquake damage, evident throughout the site in the form of thick ashy layers, burnt roof timbers, and collapsed walls. The final destruction of the town was sudden and devastating: parts of the site had 1.5-metre-thick destruction debris and up to 40-centimetre-thick ash layers, which sealed in the occupation layers until they were examined by archaeologists this century. Freshly picked grapes with their skins still intact, carbonised in the burning associated with the final destruction of the town, help archaeologists pinpoint the destruction of Numeira to the late summer or early autumn.

### Geology's impact

Geological investigations by Dr. Jack Donahue of the

University of Pittsburgh suggest that the Wadi Numeira river bed, now north of the site, may have flowed just south of the town during the EB III period. He speculates that the same earthquake that destroyed the city around 2350 B.C. also may have caused the wadi bed to shift to the north of the walled town site. Much of the mound on the north side of the site, and parts of the town wall and related towers, have eroded away due to the action of water and alluvial matter coming down Wadi Numeira during the past 4000 years. The Wadi Numeira river bed is now as much as 50 metres lower than it was during the EB III period. Alluvial remains can still be seen high up among the rocks on the north side of the wadi, where it emerges from the hills to the east. In antiquity, the walled town would have been perched on its high alluvial hilltop immediately adjacent to the perennial flow of Wadi Numeira, enjoying a good vantage point and access to fine agricultural lands all around it.

Partly confirming the theory of the shifting of Wadi Numeira to the north was the discovery of an EB I period walled town just north-east of Numeira, called Ras en-Numeira. This earlier town had a 1.75-metre-thick fortification wall, with mud-brick buttressing along its south side and all occupation to its north. The occupational evidence on the north side of Ras en-Numeira was almost entirely washed away after Wadi Numeira shifted its course to the north. Some scholars believe Wadi Numeira is the stream called the Waters of Nimrin in the Bible (Isaiah 15:6; Jeremiah 48:34) that reportedly dried up in antiquity (though many other scholars locate the Waters of Nimrin much further north, at Wadi She'eb/Wadi Nimrin in the south Jordan River Valley, near South Shouneh town).

### Cemetery still sought

There is no firm evidence of an EB III cemetery at Numeira, though surface remains hint at a cemetery site south of the walled town. As all the other EB

walled towns in the Southern Ghors had associated cemeteries, Numeira should logically have one as well. One theory suggests that the inhabitants of Numeira buried their dead in the massive EB III cemetery at Bab edh-Dhra', where typical Numeira pottery has been found in some charnel houses. Another possibility is that Numeira's cemetery was located north of the site, in which case it would have been completely washed away by the erosion action of Wadi Numeira. Work at Numeira has also provided new evidence that the Southern Ghors were more extensively occupied in antiquity than had been previously thought. A survey of a 5 x 1-kilometre strip on each side of Numeira identified 40 new sites that had not been known of previously, ranging in date from the Chalcolithic to the Mamluke periods.

### Most recent excavations

The latest excavations in the Numeira area were conducted in 1995-96 by a Department of Antiquities team from the Cultural Resources Management department, headed by Dr. Mohammad Waheeb. They carried out emergency excavations at three sites near the Numeira town site that were threatened with damage due to the construction of the new highway in that area.

The most visible site is that of Ruim Numeira, which stands immediately west of the highway on the stretch of land leading westwards to the Dead Sea shoreline, about 200 metres south of EB Numeira. It measures 17 x 19 metres, and stands nearly five metres high. Glueck and others saw it as one of a series of Nabataean stations along the route from Aqaba to Karak, via Wadi Araba and the Southern Ghors. Glueck also saw traces of former cultivation between the ruim ("tower") and the Dead Sea shore.

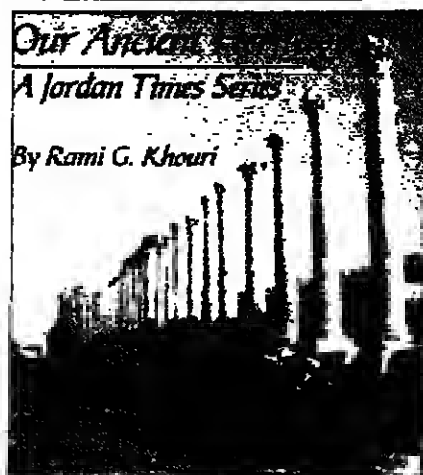
The recent excavations of the eastern side of the ruim uncovered a complete architectural unit

comprising several walls that formed small rooms. The structures were built on a series of terraces that raised them above the level of the plain and protected them from the erosion action of the wadi.

The structure seems to have been a Nabataean tower that watched over the eastern Dead Sea plain, to judge from Nabataean lamps, a juglet and numerous pottery sherds. The site was inhabited again during the Byzantine period, when it accommodated a large settlement in the 6th Century AD. Dr. Waheeb said in a recent interview. Parts of the large Byzantine cemetery have been identified around the ruim, but in many areas it had been robbed out already.

### Numeira 4

Dr. Waheeb's team discovered a new site north-west of Ruim Numeira that they have called Numeira 4. This site was covered with small and medium stones mixed with sand and pebbles, due to the seasonal erosion activity of the wadi. The excavations uncovered several rooms whose walls were constructed of undressed sandstone and limestone. The site dates from the Ayyubid-Mamluke period and seems to have been a rather substantial workshop that may have been associated with a press for the sugar industry that is well attested from that period in this region. The site's component elements included a basin, a well, water channels, and a pottery kiln. The most common finds at the site were fragments of sugarpots and painted pottery sherds from the Ayyubid-Mamluke era (1174-1516 AD). A survey west of the site, along the Dead Sea shore, revealed collapsed walls and arches, with which were associated pottery sherds from the Byzantine and Ayyubid-Mamluke eras.



Our Ancient  
A Jordan Times Series  
By Rami G. Khouri

## Pitcairn: The never-ending story

By Gwynne Dyer

IF HIS descendants are anything to go by, Fletcher Christian didn't look nearly as good as Clark Gable, Marlon Brando, or Mel Gibson (who all played him on film). But two centuries, five movies and 2,500 books and articles after Christian led a mutiny on H.M.S. 'Bounty' on 28 April, 1789, controversy still swirls around the whole episode — and around Pitcairn Island, the then uninhabited speck of rock in the South Pacific to which the mutineers fled.

"Fletcher Christian was a 5ft 9in (1.75 m), bow-legged, long-haired layabout," says Maurice Bligh, great-great-grandson of Captain William Bligh, whom Christian set adrift with eighteen loyal crew members in an open boat. Bligh's descendant has found an old photograph of Fletcher Christian's son, taken when he was the same age as Fletcher at the time of the mutiny. "I showed it to some ladies and they went 'Ugh'," smirked Bligh.

Perfidious nonsense, replied Australian TV chef Glyn Christian, a descendant of the mutineer's leader, and threatened to "come to England and smack Bligh in the face." For the descendants of Christian and the other mutineers, whether they still live on Pitcairn Island or elsewhere, Captain Bligh will always be the character created by Charles Laughton, a brutal, foppish pig of a man, and Fletcher Christian will always be the humanitarian hero.

The latest skirmish in the long battle between the families was fought in London in March, at the annual meeting of the Pitcairn Island Study Group. Maurice Bligh suggested that Fletcher Christian was high on laudanum, a potion based on opium and alcohol that 18th century Britons viewed as the cure for almost everything, when he launched the mutiny. That annoyed people, but not as much as Dea Birkett's recent suggestion that Christian was driven by repressed homosexual lust.

Birkett, who spent four months on Pitcairn a few years ago, had already irritated the locals by writing an uncompromising book about them called 'Serpent in Paradise'. Her speculations about their founding father's sexual orientation, in a recent BBC radio documentary, so outraged them that Pitcairn spokesperson Brenda Christian said she

should be hanged. "It's not quite a farwah," explained Ms. Christian, "but she's not welcome (on Pitcairn)."

Frankly, she's not likely to want to go back anyway, because it seems never to have been a happy place. In fact, according to a journal which has just been acquired by Britain's National Maritime Museum, the early years were a nightmare of violence.

After setting Captain Bligh and eighteen others adrift (the fact that half the crew chose to stay with him even in such dire circumstances speaks well of Bligh), the mutineers took the 'Bounty' to Tahiti. Sixteen of the less intelligent ones had a splendid time there until a British warship arrived. Then they were all arrested, and three were eventually hanged.

**Within ten years all but one of the English mutineers were dead, most of them murdered — and every Tahitian man was dead.**

By then, however, Christian and eight brighter mutineers had sailed off in the 'Bounty' with some Tahitian men and women in search of a safer haven. It didn't compare with Captain Bligh's epic feat — he crossed 3,900 miles (6,300 km) of open ocean with no charts and little food in a 23ft (7m) boat and landed his men safely in Timor — but after four months Fletcher's men found the most isolated island in the world: Pitcairn.

Potentially paradise, but people bring their own hell with them. Within ten years all but one of the English mutineers were dead, most of them murdered — and every Tahitian man was dead.

The 'Pitcairn Island Register' tells the tale. The single entry for the year 1793 reads: "Massacre of part of the mutineers by the Tahitians. The Tahiti men all killed, part by jealousies among themselves, the others by the remaining Englishmen." Fletcher Christian was killed, and only four of the mutineers survived. In 1798 one of them committed suicide in

an alcoholic delirium, and the following year two of the others, convinced that the third was plotting to murder them, killed him with an axe.

By the time a Boston sea-captain stumbled on the colony in 1808, only John Adams was alive of all the men, and the violence had subsided. Today there are 38 people on the island, all descended from the 27 who arrived in 'Bounty' in 1790, speaking a blend of English and Polynesian known as Pitkern. They live in what many people think is paradise — but they still aren't very happy.

"We went there for one incident," wrote Detective Superintendent Dennis McGookin in late 1996, after he travelled to Pitcairn (still a British colony) to investigate a rape case. "But when we got there it turned into numerous incidents. There's alcohol-related crime and violent crime and... there are more guns on that island than anybody needs. The islanders need to get their act together or somebody is going to get killed."

Pitcairn's isolation makes it seem romantic: it is 3,200 miles (5,200 km) from New Zealand, 3,200 miles from South America, and there is no airstrip. The islanders grow sugar cane, arrowroot and breadfruit, and sell baskets and wood carvings of sharks to the few ships that call, but there is not really an economy in the modern sense. The basic problem, in other words, may be boredom.

McGookin was so shocked by what he saw that he recommended the island be abandoned "if the residents didn't pull their socks up." Instead, the British government is now spending \$50,000 a year to station a policeman there for six to eight weeks a year. It may help matters, and it may not — but it does leave you with a vague feeling that William Bligh may not have been all bad.

In an age when Royal Navy captains who lost their ships to mutiny were invariably cashiered, Bligh not only stayed in the navy. He served with distinction in the Napoleonic wars, and rose to the rank of admiral. Whereas Fletcher Christian died amidst drunken violence, and even today Pitcairn sees a good deal of both.

It makes you wonder: traditions are not just accidents. But then you realise that Mel Gibson would never have agreed to play Fletcher Christian unless he really was the good guy. So that's all right, then.

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# U.K. firms look at Iran oil, gas buy-back projects

TEHRAN (R) — An official British trade mission, the first to visit Iran in two years, discussed ways to get involved in the next round of Iran's oil and gas buy-back projects, the head of the delegation said Sunday.

"The meetings will be a very good building block for the future," said Jennifer Wright of the British Electrotechnical and Allied Manufacturers' Association.

The week-long mission comes about one month before Iran is expected to announce the next round of oil and gas buy-back projects.

Iran, particularly in the oil and gas sector on these buy-back projects, Britain's commercial attaché Gareth Lungley said.

Iran has said it would soon set a date to offer 20 oil and gas buy-back projects. Such projects would involve firms financing projects for repayment in oil and gas production.

Members of the mission, which includes manufacturers of electrical switchgear, cables and equipment for the oil, gas, petrochemical and power sectors, would compete for sub-contracts, Mr. Lungley said.

Three investment banks were among the 13 companies represented, Lungley said.

The banks, HSBC Investment Bank Plc, Paribas London and ANZ Grindlays, are expected to explore possibilities of set-

ting up branches in Iran's free trade zones, newspaper reports said.

Iran set up three free trade zones on the Gulf islands of Kish and Qeshm and in the southeastern port of Chahbahar in 1989. It recently announced new laws allowing foreign banks to set up branches in the free trade zones.

Ms. Wright said the British delegation was bullish on business prospects with Iran, noting that despite formidable obstacles, "we realise it is certainly worth being in Iran."

"Iran is a high-risk market but there are also high returns," Mr. Lungley said.

Iran is seeking foreign investment in its oil and gas industry and has seen a stream of European trade delegations visit the country this year in search of business opportunities.

ences between Britain and Iran, annual trade between the two countries has remained static at an average of \$650 million, Mr. Lungley said.

British Petroleum Co. Plc said last week it was opening a representative office in Tehran but would wait for normalised international relations with Iran before resuming business with the Islamic republic.

Since last year, Washington has been considering whether a \$2 billion deal struck by France's Total, Russia's Gazprom and Malaysia's Petronas to develop a major Iranian gas field violates U.S. law.

Some 30 British firms attended an international oil and gas fair in Tehran last month at which Britain's department of trade and industry was officially represented for the first time in 20 years.

## Israeli unemployment steady, economic growth still slow

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The number of job seekers in Israel rose 0.3 per cent in April to 163,900 after jumping 6.5 per cent the previous month, the labour ministry announced Sunday.

The latest figure represents an additional 500 Israelis registered with the Labour Ministry as looking for work, it said.

Total unemployment stood at 8.3 per cent of the working population in March.

Analysts attribute the relatively small increase in April in part to the fact that the labour ministry and economy in general operated for reduced hours during the month due to a series of holidays, especially the eight-day Jewish Passover celebration.

Labour Minister Eli Yishai said the latest

figures "should not reassure the government because the economy is still slowing down."

In a separate report issued Sunday the government statistics bureau said gross domestic product (GDP) grew only one per cent during the first quarter of the year, the same rate as during the last three months of 1997.

Overall economic growth in 1997 stood at two per cent and current forecasts for 1998 predict GDP will rise by at most 1.5 per cent — compared to growth of 4.5 per cent in 1996 and 7.1 per cent in 1995.

Last week the government approved a \$280 million public works investment project in a bid to boost employment, but several ministers criticised the plan as too timid.

## Asia urged to shed 'dangerous' view on financial sector protection

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Most Asian governments are operating under the dangerous assumption that local financial institutions should be protected despite calls to open them up to accelerate economic recovery, a report

said Sunday. "This logic is not consistent with international reality," the Hong Kong-based Political and Economic Risk Consultancy Ltd. (PERC) said in its latest fortnightly report on Asia business and politics.

PERC said few financial institutions in the United States, where the biggest restructuring of all was taking place, felt "safe."

It added that paranoia for bankers in that country seemed to be the order of the day as new technology and size considerations completely reshaped the industry.

"It would be nice if Asian financial institutions could have reason to think they can afford to be less paranoid, but they cannot," PERC said. "They will ultimately have to go through the same reshaping."

"At a time when domestic financial institutions were being made more competitive, the standard of international competition was being raised to levels that few governments in the region were even contemplating," the report said.

But most Asian governments had a "dangerous assumption" that "although domestic financial systems need to be opened more to foreign investment, a good measure of protection can still be given to local financial institutions to ensure they have a dominant place on the local playing field," it added.

Other such assumptions, PERC noted, were that the

rapid decline of the Asian currencies since mid-1997 would enable the region to embark on an export-led recovery and that the problems of every country were mainly "imported."

"Perhaps this (export-led recovery) could happen, but as yet there is absolutely no evidence that this is so," PERC said.

Throughout the region, it said, improvements in trade and current account balances had been due almost exclusively to falling imports, not to accelerating exports.

When the Asian currency crisis began in July 1997, it was largely expected that the devaluations of Asian currencies would help boost those countries' exports.

It argued that the contention by most Asian governments that the problems they faced were mainly imported was "typical political huck-passing."

PERC said that while the catalyst which threw most Asian countries into crisis was external, the root of the problems which had fed the crisis had been almost exclusively domestic.

"And real solutions will come about only when countries take their own medicine, not when they wait for their neighbours to take the cure."

## Japan optimistic on economy

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese officials expressed optimism for the ailing economy on Sunday, forecasting a recovery later this year when the nation's largest economic package is expected to begin bearing fruit.

"The economy would pick up at the beginning of this autumn if we implement the economic measures," Koichi Karo, secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, told a television station.

The government announced a record 16.6-trillion-yen (\$124-billion) spending package in late April to rescue the world's second largest economy from recession.

Koji Omi, director general of the Economic Planning Agency, said the economy would start recovering as early as next month, when parliament is expected to pass extra budget to finance the package.

"Once the special budget passes the diet, the economy would definitely recover," the chief economic planner of the government said in a separate interview.

"Even before the passage, it would have a psychological impact on the economy," he said. "Recovery is not so far from now."

Economic data released so far this month, however,

failed to indicate a bright future.

The economic planning agency said last week Japan's economy remained "stagnant," struggling to pull itself into shape.

"As the (negative) impact of stagnant final demand is spreading across a broad area of economic activity... the economy remains stagnant, and downward pressure is increasing," the agency said in its monthly report.

The government said in early May that Japan's unemployment rate in March jumped to its worst level since the government started compiling the data in 1953.

The Bank of Japan recorded a large drop in wholesale prices last Tuesday, with overall domestic prices down 2.7 per cent, their largest year-on-year fall in more than ten years.

The chief economist at Japan's central bank last week gave a rare warning that the world's second largest economy risks being hit by deflation as prices fall.

"There is a risk that deflation will creep up," Masayuki Matsumura, the Bank of Japan's research and statistics department director, said in an interview with the Nihon Keizai Shimbun.

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Only short-listed applicants would be invited for interview.

### THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

THSPuzzles@aol.com

ACROSS

- 1 Trip in the bush
- 7 Moistened periodically
- 13 Haric
- 14 Busybody
- 16 Shaded walkway of the Southwest
- 17 Cupidity
- 18 "The Rape of the..."
- 19 Natural medicine that induces vomiting
- 20 Govt. agent
- 21 Indy winner of 1966
- 25 Discourteous
- 26 Set sights
- 28 Special, e.g.
- 29 Makes holes
- 30 987-65-4321
- 31 Like winds and rivers
- 34 Snaky turn
- 35 Kinder
- 36 Top marksman
- 39 Competence
- 40 Exist
- 43 Jefferson
- 45 Buddhist branch
- 46 Alternative to aie
- 48 Algerian port
- 49 Passover meal
- 51 Costa
- 52 Speaker's platform
- 54 Brings joy
- 56 UAE constituent
- 58 Blatant deception
- 59 Loyal fan
- 60 Oenologists' pride
- 61 Marquis
- 62 Diminishes

DOWN

- 1 Island in the Saronic Gulf
- 2 Gulf state
- 3 Oratic food shortage
- 4 Arabian gulf
- 5 Commuter
- 6 One-million connection
- 7 Youth org.
- 8 Incus inside one's ear
- 9 Cleansing agent
- 10 Celebrity in the Corrida
- 11 Food expert
- 12 Withdraws
- 13 Spaghetti, ziti, etc.
- 15 Break in the school day
- 22 Struggle
- 23 Pressured into buying
- 24 Benzene derivative
- 27 Painter of ballet dancers
- 29 Mineral that mara is
- 32 CSA boy
- 33 Old pro
- 36 Idolized
- 37 Collided and rebounded
- 38 Intentionally vague
- 40 Unsettled syllables
- 42 Deities
- 44 Lead-ins
- 47 Noah's peak
- 49 Fully full
- 50 Betty Ford Clinic, e.g.
- 53 Pro
- 55 Rstrain
- 56 Delites
- 57 Large shoe width
- 58 It's pro

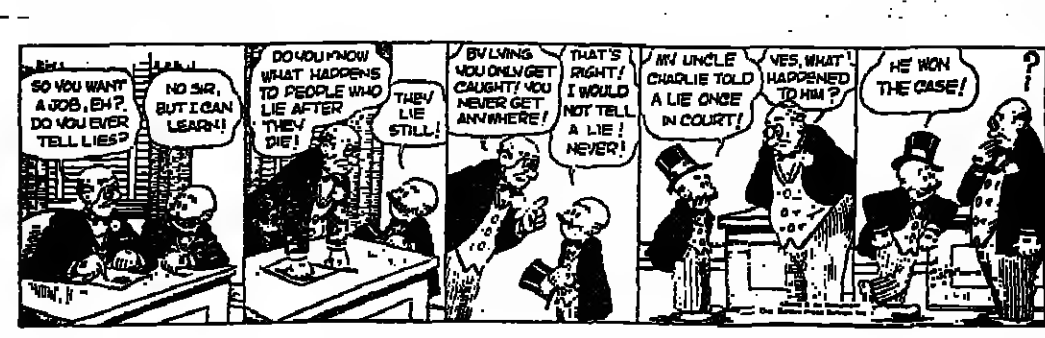
### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n'Jeff



### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, MAY 18, 1998

#### By Linda Black Tribune Media Services

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) A meeting should go well, although it looks like there's a lot of money. If you toss around a few ideas, you'll be up with a way to raise more funds. Do that, trying to scrimp any further. You've already done about as much as you possibly can.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) An older authority figure has figured out how you're acting. This does not sit well with you. Actually, feelings might be based on a misunderstanding.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You're better off finishing something you've already begun. You would have finished it by now, but there was something about it that rendered you unable to make up your mind. Well, this is the day to decide. Don't put it off any longer.

**CANCER:** (June 22 to July 21) People are asking about what should be done, and how it should be done. You're wise, but why don't you just listen for a while. Gather information without offering any suggestions yet. You'll be able to make a much wiser showing when you wait.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) If you're in negotiations with a Scorpio, you're definitely stuck. On the other hand, conditions today are very stable. This is a good time to make a decision, especially if you invite a Scorpio to participate. If you don't, you may wish later that you had. Work it out.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Your work is intense and complicated. There might even be some breakdowns. Don't despair. You've got extra energy and patience. Take time to figure out a mechanical problem now, with the help of an expert. You won't have time later in the week.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) You have a strong romantic side, most of it intellectual. You tend to fall for people who can carry on a good conversation. You should be able to generate a spectacular one this evening. Invite the most interesting person you know over to your place.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) You like to come up with the winning decision because you're so often right, at least in your own eyes. Today, your offer will be counteroffered, then counter-counteroffered. Figure out a way to reach a compromise. If you can do that, everybody ends up a big winner.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You're learning quickly, and you're applying what you learn to your career. You might feel bogged down and wonder if you're really getting ahead at all. It might even look like what you're doing isn't working. That's just an optical illusion. Don't give up.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) There's a decision to be made concerning love and money. You don't have to choose between the two, but you may not be able to have both at the same time. If you share a goal, it won't be such a hardship. In fact, it'll be fun. Make that your priority.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You'll get a rocket boost in a couple of days, especially in the area of romance. Might as well prepare now. You and your sweetheart have things to talk about. Money, for example, and how you're going to spend it around the house. Handle that tonight so you'll have plenty of time to play later.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Think carefully about what you do say. There's no point in trying to postpone decisions, however. Somebody is pressuring you to comply right now. It's some sort of assignment that's way overdue. Go ahead. You'll be so proud of yourself and so relieved once it's finished.

Birthstone of May: Emerald — Citrine

### Business

## UAE banks to face

ABC DHABI (AFP) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) commercial banks are pushing ahead with plans to increase their capital to face growing demand for their services and meet adequacy levels, bank figures showed Sunday.

Since the start of the year, 11 banks revealed their paid-up capital or announced funding plans, buoyed by a surge in 1997 net profits to one of their highest levels since the end of the oil boom 15 years ago.

The decision added around \$5 million to the UAE's total capital of the Gulf region's 14 national banks to nearly \$7 billion, at the end of April.

"There is no doubt that will enable the national banks to expand their capital adequacy and overall financial position, and hence growing demand for credit," Zuhair Kaswan, a prominent UAE

## India to build

NEW DELHI (R) — India will build strategic stocks of refined crude oil to insulate it from future exigencies of war and price volatility of petroleum products, a government official said Sunday.

### REUTERS

## The Business

Major Currencies & Cross Rates				
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	JPY
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7936	0.6936	133.62
DE Mark	0.5676	1.0000	0.5376	163.33
GB Sterling	1.6240	2.9376	1.0000	160.33
CH Franc	0.8731	1.2484	0.6411	136.76
JP Yen	0.0074	1.3317	0.6411	136.76
CA Dollar	0.6998	1.2366	0.6411	136.76
IT Lira	0.0008	1.0100	0.6411	136.76
NL Guilder	0.4973	0.8877	0.6411	136.76
FR Franc	0.1667	0.2936	0.6411	136.76

Middle East				
Currency	USD	JOD	SA	SR
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7096	3.7576	4.7576
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	1.0000	3.7576	4.7576
Saudi Riyal	0.2668	0.3758	1.0000	1.2703
Bahrain Dinar	2.66	1.3687	3.7576	4.7576
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.3758	1.0000	1.2703
Kuwait Dinar	3.2674	2.3168	12.76	16.27
Emirate Dinar	0.2723	0.3758	1.0000	1.2703
Lebanese 1000	0.66	0.4486	2.6276	3.3776
Egyptian	0.2839	0.3984	1.9826	2.5376

Energy				
Oil	Last	Previous	Crude	Oil
Brent	14.37	14.33	WTI	14.37
N. Texas	14.47	14.11	WTI	14.37
Bonny	14.37	14.33	WTI	14.37
Dubai	13.15	12.77	WTI	14.37
U.S. Gas	158.00	158.00	WTI	14.37

JOD Cross Rates				
Currency	Buy	Sell	Index	Value
US Dollar	0.708	0.710	DOW JONES	5900
GB Sterling	1.1493	1.155	S&P 500	1100
DE Mark	0.3958	0.3978	FT-SE 100	3800
CH Franc	0.4758	0.4778	NIKKEI 225	12000
FR Franc	0.1181	0.1187	CAC 40	3500
JP Yen	0.5253	0.5273	DAX	3500
NL Guilder	0.3517	0.3537		
IT Lira	0.4018	0.4038		

Bourse				
	Index	Value	Index	Value
New York	DOW JONES	5900	New York	DOW JONES
New York	S&P 500	1100	New York	S&P 500
London	FT-SE 100	3800	London	FT-SE 100
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	12000	Tokyo	NIKKEI 225
Paris	CAC 40	3500	Paris	CAC 40
Frankfurt	DAX	3500	Frankfurt	DAX

### THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"The patch helps control my craving for stimulating, intellectual conversation."

### JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MICER  
EGGOU  
HOMAF  
RAYPER

Answer: IT'S OF

Yesterday's Jumbles: SHEAF SKULK INJECT FACIAL  
Answer: Why he was crestfallen when they lost the doubles match — IT WAS HIS FAULT

JORDAN				
DA				
STU				

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# UAE banks boost capital to face business growth

ABU DHABI (AFP) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) commercial banks are pushing ahead with plans to increase their capital to face growing demand for their services and meet adequacy levels, bank figures showed Sunday.

Since the start of the year, 11 banks boosted their paid-up capital or announced similar plans, buoyed by a surge in 1997 net profits to one of their highest levels since the end of the oil boom 15 years ago.

The decision added around 853 million dirhams (\$232 million) to boost the combined capital of the Gulf country's 19 national banks to nearly 8.3 billion dirhams (\$2.26 billion) at the end of April.

"There is no doubt this will enable the national banks to expand their investments, strengthen their capital adequacy and overall financial position, and face growing demand for credits," Zuhair Kaswani, a prominent UAE

stockbroker and economist said in a report citing bank balance sheets.

Several foreign banks have also raised their capital over the past year following central bank instructions to the country's 47 banking units to increase their adequacy, the ratio between shareholders equity and assets.

The central bank set the capital of each bank at a minimum 40 million dirhams (\$10.9 million) and stressed adequacy must not go below the eight per cent floor recommended by the Bank for International Settlements.

Shareholders equity, which covers the capital and reserves, has steadily grown in the past three years as a result of capital increases.

From 21.6 billion dirhams (\$5.88 billion) at the end of 1995, it rose to 23.2 billion dirhams (\$6.3 billion) at the end of 1997.

With assets standing at around 190 billion dirhams (\$51.7 billion), this means

their combined adequacy stood at 12 per cent at the end of 1997.

The capital increases were also prompted by strong demand for credits by the private sector due to an economic upturn in the UAE and other Gulf Arab states.

The central bank rules also involved curbs on such credits as they should be proportionate with the shareholders equity. The rules were intended to prevent a fresh banking crisis following the bad debt problem in the mid-1980s.

"I believe our banks are making the right move by boosting their capital. This will enable them to expand the sphere of their activities," a UAE banker said.

"It will also allow them to face growing competition as the banking sectors in all countries are opening up to each other."

The latest capital rises were made through contributions by shareholders or distribution of free shares which were

financed from the reserves.

The biggest capital increase was made by the Union National Bank (UNB). It was previously known as the Bank of Credit and Commerce Emirates and owned 40 per cent by the liquidated Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

UNB decided this year to increase capital by 45 per cent to 561.6 million dirhams (\$153 million) after it fully recovered from the BCCI collapse and started to make profits over the past two years.

Another increase was reported by Al Mashreq Bank, which suffered from brief panic withdrawals of deposits last year because of rumoured losses. It raised capital by 10 per cent to 596.2 million dirhams (\$162.3 million).

Emirates Bank International, one of the top five UAE banks, boosted capital by 25 per cent to 587.8 million dirhams (\$160.1 m).

## China aims to open up for more foreign investment


BEIJING (AP) — China will use more foreign investment in construction, petrochemicals and services, the trade minister was quoted Sunday as saying.

Shi Guangsheng, head of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, also said China will offer more incentives to foreign investors who put their money into the less-developed central and western parts of the country.

The service industry will be gradually opened, including pilot projects for attracting overseas investment in tourism, water transportation, commerce, accounting, legal consulting and air transportation, Mr. Shi said in an interview with the state-run Xinhua news agency.

The report gave no details about how services or other sectors would be opened to more investment.

Foreign investment in China slowed last year. Pledged foreign direct investment decreased 29.3 per cent from \$ 73.5 billion in 1996.



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## India to build strategic stocks of imported crude

NEW DELHI (R) — India will build strategic stocks of imported crude oil to insulate it from future exigencies of war and price volatility of petroleum products, a government official said Sunday.

"As in most advanced nations, India will construct storage tanks for building stocks of crude oil. These (stocks) will be for providing oil security in times of war or a war-like situation," the

official, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters.

"The stocks will be used (for producing products) in times when the international prices are too steep or too volatile."

The official clarified that the proposal had been pending since October 1995 and was floated after product prices skyrocketed to touch a new high.

"It is not a fallout of the sanctions imposed by the U.S. and Japan," he added. The U.S. and Japan imposed sanctions on India last week when New Delhi exploded five nuclear devices.

A government document obtained by Reuters said India's aim was to build strategic crude stock of 12.55 million tonnes, enough for keeping its refineries in operation for 45 days.

But initially, strategic cover of 4.25 million tonnes of imported crude would be built to provide for 15 days of contingent supply, said the document prepared by the petroleum ministry's planning wing, the oil coordination committee.

The scale-down to 15 days was being done to lower the cost of constructing the storage tanks and the crude import bill, and to ensure quick completion.

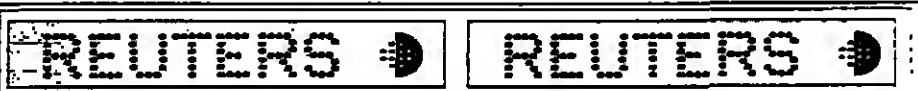
For the 15-day cover, India would need to build additional storage tank capacity of 5.66 million tonnes at a cost of 66.62 billion rupees (\$1.6 billion).

The total cost of the project, including crude imports, has been pegged at 87.18 billion rupees. The document said the costs would be recovered through a levy on petroleum products.

"It said the strategic stocks, when added to the 15-day stock maintained under operational norms and the 15-day transit stock, would ensure 45 days' supply to refineries."

"The proposed 15 days of strategic (crude) cover, over and above the operating stocks, would enable the refineries to sustain for six weeks of operations," said the document.

The proposal did not specify a time frame for the project but recommended the scale-down to 15 days on grounds that a 45-day cover was very large and would be difficult to complete in a "reasonable" time period.



**The Business of Information**

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ATL	17/05/98	18/05/98
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7335	0.6168	0.6563	134.63	1.4478	1784.00	2.0108	2.0108
DE Mark	0.5776	1.0000	0.3431	0.8283	76.08	0.5089	983.81	1.1211	1.1211
GB Sterling	1.6240	2.9130	1.0000	2.4128	216.55	2.3807	2866.71	3.2657	3.2657
CH Franc	0.6731	1.2064	0.4141	1.0000	90.58	0.9737	1187.00	135.27	135.27
JP Yen	0.0074	1.3317	0.4671	1.1031	1.0000	1.0748	13.10	148.31	148.31
CA Dollar	0.6998	1.2386	0.4251	1.0260	1.07	1.0000	1218.55	1.3887	1.3887
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0160	0.3487	0.8842	1312.61	0.8199	11.39	3.3878	3.3878
NL Guilder	0.4973	0.8817	0.3060	0.7388	66.90	0.7194	877.30	2.2823	2.2823
FR Franc	0.1667	0.2889	0.1025	0.1085	24.7821	0.2443	33.52	33.5200	33.5200

Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LEB	EGP
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7080	3.7506	0.3770	0.3698	0.3061	3.6728	1513.20	3.4025
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	1.0000	5.2900	0.5317	0.5137	0.4377	5.1803	2134.27	4.7990
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.1890	1.0000	0.1006	0.097	0.0816	0.98	403.48	0.9072
Bahrain Dinar	2.85	1.8907	9.9488	1.0000	0.85	0.8118	9.74	4013.90	9.0284
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1948	1.0304	1.0304	1.0000	0.8841	1.01	415.74	0.9348
Kuwait Dinar	3.2674	2.3168	12.2549	1.2318	1.189	1.0000	12.00	4844.28	9.3348
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	1.0212	1.0208	0.9910	0.8833	1.00	412.00	0.9284
Lebanese 1000	0.08	0.4686	2.4788	0.2481	2.4054	0.2823	2.4272	2.2483	2.2483
Egyptian	0.2839	0.2084	1.1023	0.1108	1.0587	0.0899	1.0794	444.73	444.73

Oil	Unit	17/05/98	18/05/98
Brent	14.37	14.33	14.33
WTI	14.47	14.11	14.11
Bonny	14.37	14.33	14.33
Dubai	13.15	12.77	12.77
UL Gas	188.00	188.00	188.00

Currency	Month	17/05/98	18/05/98
USD	1 Month	5.8441	5.7344
USD	3 Months	5.8441	5.7344
GBP	1 Month	7.4323	7.4896
GBP	3 Months	7.4323	7.4896
DEM	1 Month	3.8898	3.8927
DEM	3 Months	3.8898	3.8927
JPY	1 Month	0.5729	0.5846
JPY	3 Months	0.5729	0.5846
FRF	1 Month	3.6313	3.7396
FRF	3 Months	3.6313	3.7396
CHF	1 Month	1.6878	1.6916
CHF	3 Months	1.6878	1.6916
ITL	1 Month	6.4780	6.1300
ITL	3 Months	6.4780	6.1300

Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pr Cls
New York DOW JONES	8096	-78.23	-0.97	8175.19	8090.52	8172.23
New York S&P 500	1108.73	-8.97	-0.81	1118.65	1107.11	1117.37
London FTSE 100	5917.8	-30.7	-0.52	5953.2	5885.5	5948.5
Tokyo Nikkei 225	18242.88	-44.83	-0.24	18412.8	18213.3	18307.7
Paris CAC 40	3980.23	-21.76	-0.54	4024.36	3984.5	4011.88
Frankfurt DAX	5393.14	-31.92	-0.59	5428.42	5372.84	5381.22

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
BIDDING BANK CHARTER AMMAN - JORDANIAN											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 17/05/1998											
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	
355,500	170,000	ARAB BANK	16.6	9.9	145	2840	579185	205.00	202.50	2.50	+
2,340	1,620	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	14.3	3.96	15	8413	16569	1.73	1.76	0.03	+
1,540	1,250	BANK OF JORDAN	15.2	0.69	2	3000	3970	1.36	1.32	0.02	-
1,300	680	MID. EAST. DEV. BK.	63.1	0.00	4	25250	24040	95	96	0.01	+
2,640	1,600	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	8.2	6.61	1	100	160	1.60	1.60	0	0
5,510	1,710	THE JORDANIAN BK.	20.7	3.07	156	13581	448920	3.21	3.26	0.05	+
4,180	1,790	JOR. ECON. DEV. BK.	9	0.00	11	4987	9748	1.90	1.95	0.05	+
920	590	JOR. CREDIT BK.	4.2	9.86	11	23300	16543	72	71	0.01	-
4,010	1,400	JOR. SECUR. BANK	19.1	0.00	25	22200	41821	1.85	1.89	0.04	+
3,900	1,450	JOR. INV. FCN. BANK	12.5	6.17	3	400	642	1.60	1.62	0.02	+
1,400	800	REIT. AL-NOL (REITING)	4.6	0.00	17	5850	5527	0.94	0.94	0	0
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 277.37 %CHG: -0.63 390 232231 1164925											
2,400	1,590	JOR. FRENCH TRNG.	6.1	11.36	4	400	884	2.20	2.20	0	0
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 122.20 %CHG: 0.00 4 400 884											
2,240	1,620	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	10.0	5.37	12	6295	12906	2.05	2.05	0	0
6,100	3,550	JOR. INTL. HOTELS	14.3	4.31	4	13850	591236	4.42	4.44	0.02	+
1,590	910	KATL. PORTFOLIO	44.3	0.00	19	9700	10766	1.11	1.11	0	0
590	320	JORDANIAN INTL. TRNG.	10.0	0.00	8	2600	1118	1.35	1.36	0.02	+
4,600	2,890	ARAB INTL. DEV. BK.	10.4	1.90	15	12750	26775	2.00	2.10	0.10	+
1,090	900	ZAKA EDUCATION	16.3	0.00	2	250	233	0.92	0.93	0.01	+
3,400	1,450	UNITED CO.	6.7	7.28	3	500	755	1.53	1.51	0.02	-
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 114.75 %CHG: +2.30 64 171061 643804											
1,160	960	ATMOSPHER	9	0.00	1	1000	1100	1.10	1.10	0	0
4,450	2,450	JOR. COAST FACT.	14.9	4.36	31	29374	74272	2.53	2.51	0.02	-
1,550	850	ARAB PORTLAND CEM.	26.7	0.00	3	600	326	5.47	5.42	0.05	-
11,250	9,270	JOR. PETROL. TRADING	10.1	8.56	6	315	3276	10.40	10.39	0.01	-
1,470	1,040	MOULDER INDUSTRIES	11.7	6.76	14	3000	4372	1.42	1.48	0.07	+
1,070	1,100	INDUSTRIAL CONGR.	9	0.00	3	400	492	1.22	1.23	0.01	+
5,740	3,620	ARAB PETROL. TRNG.	15.0	3.66	91	76950	418030	5.43	5.46	0.03	+
3,940	2,350	JORDAN BANK	5.9	10.44	3	157	417	2.65	2.66	0.01	+
6,350	4,650	DAR ADAMIA JV. DEV.	6.7	6.25	2	700	3920	5.76	5.60	0.16	+
3,220	2,220	ARAB ALUM. IND.	19.4	0.00	1	100	262	2.76	2.62	0.14	+
570	400	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	15.9	0.00	5	4400	2068	0.47	0.47	0	0
620	510	NATIONAL TRNG.	9	0.00	4	8000	4220	0.52	0.53	0.01	+
760	510	TRADING. PETROL. CHEM.	9	0.00	30	55650	23894	42	43	0.01	+
2,020	1,360	DEV. CHEM. TRNG.	12.9	6.35	2	300	382	1.26	1.26	0	0
3,000	920	KATL. CABLE WTR. TRNG.	27.4	0.00	4	3150	3530	1.13	1.14	0.01	+
1,550	1,150	JOR. SULPHUR CHEM.	12.4	0.00	6	3250	1950	0.60	0.60	0	0
1,550	1,150	ARAB PETROL. CHEM.	15.3	4.32	25	17400	24201	1.38	1.39	0.01	+
1,540	810	DEV. HOUS. TRNG.	14.0	6.82	7	4546	4022	0.88	0.88	0	0
1,200	670	JOR. TRNG. RESOURCES	9.3	14.69	4	2100	1429	0.69	0.69	0	0
1,420	1,320	ARAB CHEMICALS	11.5	7.41	11	5750	1118	1.35	1.35	0	0
1,080	610	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	12.6	11.24	10	4500	4009	0.88	0.89	0.01	+
1,310	1,080	INTL. TRADING	7.2	5.69	12	7800	9621	1.24	1.23	0.01	-
1,120	670	TRNG. CH. TRNG.	11.1	4	500	820	1.13	1.13	0	0	
860	660	JORDAN STEEL	6.6	6.86	29	18950	15125	0.80	0.79	0.01	-
690	570	MID. EAST. COMPLEX	10.3	0.00	35	38700	22326	0.59	0.57	0.02	-
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 103.37 %CHG: -0.66 342 287642 634671											
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 181.97 %CHG: -0.50 800 691534 2424284											
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 17/05/1998											
N 1,050	910	EXPORT & FTR. BKK. 75%	16.0	0.00	27	39150	27609	94	97	0.03	+
620	490	HAJH. BOP. REST. HOLN.	28.0	0.00	1	500	255	51	51	0	0
400	300	GENERAL CON. STORAGE	9	0.00	3	2000	600	30	30	0	0
540	530	JOR. TRNG. FCN.	9	0.00	24	57150	24793	16	16	0	0
620	360	ARAB FTR. TRNG.	9	0.00	12	23000	9510	41	42	0.01	+
N 3,220	1,950	CENTURY LFT. GROUP	9	0.00	1	250	388	1.48	1.55	0.07	+
290	280	JOR. ECON. DEV. TRNG.	9	0.00	5	2500	418	1.12	1.12	0	0
120	370	ARAB FOOD & MED.	9	0.00	7	5000	2360	47	47	0	0
470	240	ARAB INTL. DEV. TRNG.	40.3	0.00	4	5000	1703	35	35	0	0
650	540	INTL. TRNG. DEV. TRNG.	9	0.00	54	21100	90680	43	44	0.02	+
570	310	HAJAH. BOP. & TRNG.	9	0.00	1	510	282	13	13	0	0
520	400	ARAB ELECT. IND.	9	0.00	1	2500	100	42	40	0.02	-
580	460	MOULDER TRNG. 90%	9	0.00	2	500	775	261	62	0.01	+
430	340	IND. TRNG.	9	0.00	2	10150	28	28	28	0	0
1,850	470	IND. CERAMIC	13.1	0.00	5	19950	1996	51	50	0.01	-
N 9,500	580	IND. PETROL. TRNG.	9	0.00	1	500	50	63	65	0.02	+
570	370	PELAG. SAN. P. CONV.	9	0.00	1	750	750	40	39	0.01	-
710	430	HAJH. PETROTRNG.	9	0.00	16	50000	26478	53	54	0.01	+
N 4,950	460	IND. PETROL. TRNG.	9	0.00	23	20050	12837	65	65	0	0
N 1,210	1,000	MOULDER TRNG.	9	0.00	3	3050	3203	1.07	1.05	0.02	-
N 1,000	750	KATL. TRNG. CO. 75%	12.0	9.59	1	1000	540	79	79	0	0
GRAND TOTAL 206 451044 210643											
T : New 12 months high N : New 12 months low + : Stock dividend during the past 12 months - : Divided during the past 12 months											



# Derby winner Real Quiet captures 123rd Preakness

BALTIMORE (AFP) — Kentucky Derby winner Real Quiet scored a three-length victory Saturday in the second jewel of U.S. flat racing's Triple Crown, the 123rd running of the Preakness Stakes.

Real Quiet, with Kent Desormeaux up, used the same move Saturday that won the Derby two weeks ago, coming four-wide around the clubhouse turn and blowing away the competition down the stretch to win in 1:54 3/5.

The morning-line favourite, Real Quiet went off as the 5-2 second choice. Victory Gallop, runner-up to Real Quiet in the Derby, settled for second again under Gary Stevens.

Classic Cat, with Robby Alvarado aboard, was third.

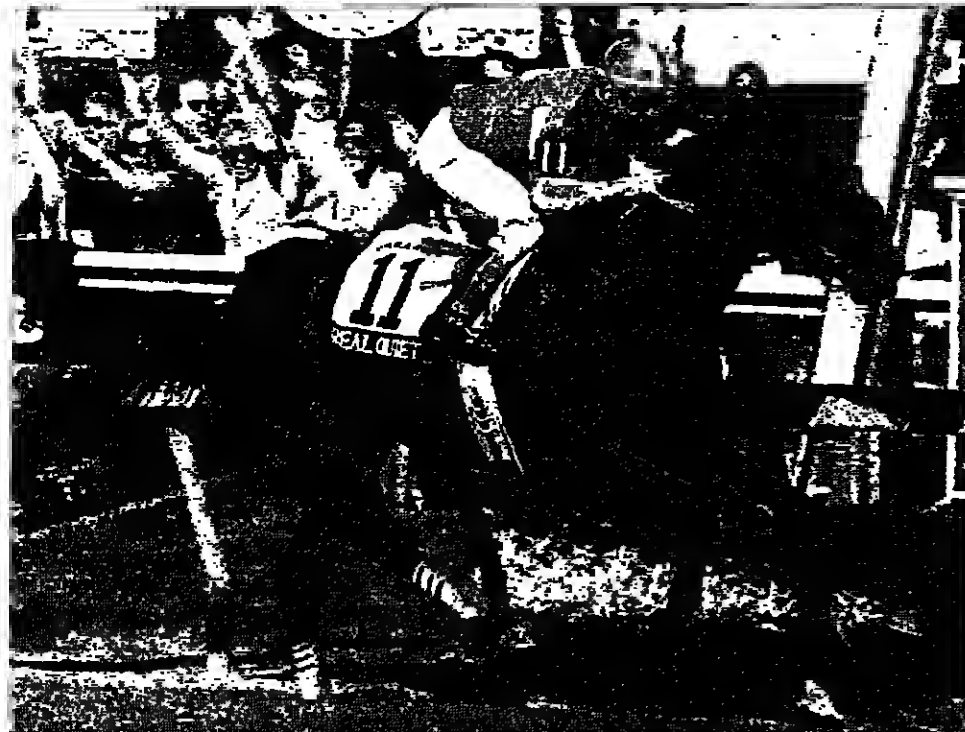
Real Quiet trainer Bob Baffert, who saddled Derby and Preakness winner Silver Charm last year, became the first trainer in history to condition back-to-back winners in the first two Triple Crown races. Baffert has trained the winners in four of the last five Triple Crown events.

Real Quiet became just the second horse to win the Preakness from the 10th post, joining 1962 winner Greek Money.

"He's doing better than he was for the Derby," Baffert said. "When he came in here he wasn't that tired and he trained well with all the people around him. I think people will take him serious now."

Baquero, the D. Wayne Lukas-trained speedster, led the field to the quarter-mile in 23 2/5, with Black Cash and Basic Trainee in tow. The trio took the field to the half-mile in 46 1/5 while battling temperatures above 90 degrees.

Victory Gallop, trained by first-time Preakness starter Elliott Walden, and Lukas' other entrant, Cape Town, joined the leaders as the



Real Quiet, with jockey Kent Desormeaux up, crosses the finish line to win the 123rd Preakness Stakes at Pimlico Race Track. Real Quiet has now captured the first two jewels of horse racing's triple crown (Reuters photo)

field roared to three-quarters in 1:11. Real Quiet began coming fastest on the outside and got his head in front as they turned for home.

"I tried to take control of the race at the half-mile mark," Stevens said. "Real Quiet was outside and behind us most of the trip. I was able to make the move I wanted to but Kent was able to breeze by me when he wanted to."

"I nudged him a little bit and he went by them," Desormeaux said. "Right after that is was like where did they go?"

In the stretch, it was all Real Quiet. He pulled away, opening a big lead. At one point, Desormeaux even glanced back to check on the competition.

Victory Gallop was closer to the pack than in the Derby, when he came from out of nowhere to take second. Again, he was unable to run down Real Quiet

before the wire. "No match for the winner today," Stevens said. "No excuses for my horse. It was a gutty little horse I rode but Real Quiet just ran away from him."

Real Quiet won for the fourth time in 14 career starts and posted back-to-back victories for the first time in his career.

"I learned what the Preakness was and I also found out that Santa Claus does come to Maryland in May," Real Quiet owner Mike Pegram said. "I love hot weather, I love Maryland and I love Real Quiet."

Real Quiet took home the winner's share of \$650,000, but that would pale in comparison to the \$5 million bonus he would secure by winning the Belmont.

The last horse to win the Triple Crown was the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont Stakes — was Affirmed in 1978.

Affirmed was the third horse to do it in the 1970s, after Seattle Slew in 1977 and Secretariat in 1973. Before that the gap stretched back to Citation in 1948.

A transformer fire near a parking lot knocked out power for about 4 1/2 hours before the race and shut down betting in the clubhouse and grandstand. Minutes after the fire erupted at 1:20 p.m. (1720 GMT), an air conditioner burst into flames near the jockeys' locker room.

No injuries were reported. Betting was uninterrupted in the infield but power was not restored to some sections of the track until more than an hour after the race.

Track president Joe DeFrancis said he never considered canceling the Preakness. He estimated losses of about \$2 million in wagering.

## Basler boosts Bayern in German Cup

BERLIN (AFP) — A goal two minutes from time by "Super Mario" Basler gave Bayern Munich their ninth German Cup on Saturday as the Bavarian giants came from behind to beat MSV Duisburg 2-1 at Berlin's Olympic Stadium.

Togoese striker Bachirou Salou had fired Duisburg into a 20th-minute lead after out-pacing veteran Lothar Matthaeus and then hammering home an unstoppable low drive past Oliver Kahn in the Bayern goal.

But after looking very much second best in the opening 45 minutes, Bayern upped the momentum after the break.

And their pressure told on 70 minutes when Markus Babel turned in the equaliser from five yards out following a goalmouth scramble which caused confusion in the Duisburg defence. Basler then conjured the winner with 100 seconds remaining with a curling freekick that eluded everyone and dropped lamely into the net.

It was Bayern's first domestic Cup win for 12 years and gave departing Italian coach Giovanni Trapattoni a winning send-off in his last match in charge.

Trapattoni, 59, later told German television that he was having talks with Fiorentina as he mulled over a return to the Serie A.

"I think I will go to Fiorentina, but it's not yet finalised. There are still many loose ends to tie up," said Trapattoni.

"But it will be a great challenge and a test for me."

Matthaeus, recently recalled to the German World Cup squad, meanwhile said winning the Cup made up for other disappointments this season.

"We're delighted to have won the Cup after things didn't work out for us in the Champions League and the Bundesliga," said the veteran libero.

## World Cup countdown with Franz Beckenbauer

Are you a World Cup expert? Then let me challenge you

3) Diego Armando Maradona was, without a shadow of a doubt, one of the great protagonists of the 1986 World Cup in Mexico.

Had it not been for him, I might have won my first World Cup as coach. Perhaps you remember: We were playing in the final against that Argentinian team which virtually danced to the rhythms dictated by the "Pibe de Oro," the golden boy — Diego Maradona.

It was his pass to Burruchaga which broke the 2-2 draw my players had achieved after Argentina's initial 2-0. I was made to wait four years until Italy in 1990 to win a World Cup as trainer. But when all is said and done, to watch Maradona in that tournament in Mexico

was pure delight. Especially in England.

His second goal against the British team was a miracle. It looked as if the ball was sewn to his boot. His first goal was the subject of much comment, as you know, because of its illegality. Maradona, with the same slyness that characterised him on the pitch, said after the game that the band which propelled the ball into the English net was "the hand of God."

And even though Uruguayan author Mario Benedetti insists that the goal is "the only conclusive proof as to the existence of God," the whole world-faithful and agnostic — knows it was the hand of Diego.

But... was it the left? Or the right?

### Facts and figures about the participating countries

#### BELGIUM

30,528 sq km · Capital: Brussels  
Population: 10,130,574 — 331.8 per sq km (1994)  
Principal languages: Flemish, French  
Annual GNP per capita: US\$ 22,920. — (1994)

Participation in World Cup championships:

1930 34 38 42 46 50 54 58 62 66 70 74 78 82 86 90 94 98

Solve the geography question daily to find the phrase at the end of Beckenbauer's World Cup countdown

3) This country consists of a very dry northern half with much savannah and a tropical south, covered in rainforest. The highest mountain is a still active volcano. Thanks to high levels of oil exports, the population fared significantly better for a while in the 1980s than in most of the surrounding countries. This wasn't always so. "Merchants bought slaves, ivory and raw rubber," runs a description in a reference book on the history of the country. France and Britain together ousted the colonial power Germany and divided up the spoils between them. Since independence, both English and French are recognised as the official languages of the country. More than 200 ethnic groups co-exist more or less peacefully. A footballer from this country became a national hero at a World Cup competition, striking fear with his 39 years into the hearts of much younger stars. Four years later at 42 years and 39 days, he broke the record for the oldest participant at any World Cup tournament. For years there have been violent border conflicts between this country and its neighbour, which is also taking part in the World Cup in

**SOLUTION TO THE WORLD CUP COUNTRY CONTEST**  
The phrase we are looking for offers a rather precise, though harsh definition of an ability considered indispensable in the world of diplomats.

Please fill in the respective letters in the corresponding positions:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13  
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25  
26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39  
40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50  
51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65  
66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74

**France.**  
**Solution:**  
Please enter the letters of the country as instructed in the solution squares as follows:  
First letter of the country in position 8  
Sixth letter in position 5.

### What's wrong here?



World Cup 1970. Brazil, led by Pele and with one of the best teams of all time, are crowned World Champions, after beating Italy 4-1 in Mexico City's Azteca Stadium. It is Brazil's third World Cup. Pele uses his moment of glory to announce he would not be pulling on the Brazil national team shirt ever again. However, he will continue to play for his league team, Santos, until 1974.

## Rios, Costa sweep through to Italian Open final

ROME (AFP) — Marcelo Rios won seven games in a row before Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten got started as the Chilean World No. 3 stormed into his second straight final 6-0, 7-5 here on Saturday at the \$2.45 million Italian Open.

Rios, who lost to Spaniard Alex Corretja a year ago in a title match at the Foro Italico, will take on another Spanish opponent as he plays Albert Costa on Sunday.

The unseeded Costa beat compatriot Alberto Berasategui 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 in the afternoon's first semi-final.

"I played very well and hit the ball cleanly," said Rios. "I felt good on court, especially from the baseline. I knew exactly how to play."

Rios said he was not over-confident for the best-of-five-set Sunday final because "Costa is playing really good and has confidence."

But he warned: "I'm fresh and haven't had that many tough matches. I'm really excited to play and try to win another super 9."

Rios, winner of the year's first two Mercedes Super 9 events in America in March, showed that he has almost fully recovered from the elbow injury which kept him from playing an ATP Tour match in April after taking over the world Number one ranking from



Chilean Marcelo Rios reacts after winning his semi-final match at the Italian Open against Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten. Rios won 6-0 7-5 to advance to the final where he will face Spaniard Albert Costa (Reuters photo)

Pete Sampras.

The Chilean said the elbow still gives him some pain at night and need treatment. "But I'm feeling much better than I did two weeks ago," he added.

Kuerten conceded that Rios now has an excellent chance of dethroning him

in Paris at the French Open, which starts next week.

"He's the best player this year so far," said Kuerten. "He has the chance to win any event. There is no favourite for the French Open, but he is one of the guys who has more chance."

Rios ran away with the first set as he and Kuerten met for the first time as professionals. Rios won all three clashes they played as juniors.

The Chilean built his triumph on the back of two breaks, which took him swiftly to 5-0.

Kuerten then let a 40-0 lead in the sixth game go to waste and Rios closed out the set with an easy forehand winner in little more than a quarter of an hour on Centre Court.

Rios kept up his devastating pace, slicing over a smooth backhand volley to begin the second set 1-0.

Kuerten drew a round of applause and raised his hands in mock triumph as he won his first game of the match with an ace for 1-1.

"I couldn't play my game," admitted Kuerten. "I couldn't play my best shots. Zero-seven was a tough start."

"I couldn't play relaxed. I was always trying to win my first game. After that I felt more comfortable. I was able to play a normal match afterwards."

As the Brazilian's game returned, the equilibrium of the match stabilised with Kuerten levelling at 4-4 when Rios put a forehand out of the corner.

The Chilean then earned the only break of the second set as the Brazilian produced a backhand error to

lose. Rios will remain third in the world next week regardless of how he does on Sunday.

Saturday's first semi-final saw Costa dropping his first set in almost two weeks.

The Spaniard, ranked 20th in the world, last lost a set in the first round of the German Open against Andrei Medvedev a week ago on Monday.

Since then, the 22-year-old from Barcelona has been untouchable except for his one losing set against Berasategui, the 12th seed.

"It was really hot," said Costa, who took a pill from the trainer to help him fight heat and fatigue.

"I had the luck in the third set, that's what made the difference," he added.

Costa will be bidding for his eighth career title on Sunday after winning his previous seven on clay.

He grabbed a 4-3 lead in the deciding set, but lost the edge when 1994 French Open finalist Berasategui broke back.

Costa secured the victory in one hour 49 minutes as he broke for 5-3 and served out the victory, winning on first match point with an unreachable cross-court forehand.

"It was as much mental as physical out there," said the winner. "It was hard work for both of us. I'm tired, but I'll be ready to play the final."

TODAY AT	<b>PHILADELPHIA 1'</b> Bruce Willis & Gary Oldman ... in <b>THE FIFTH ELEMENT</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	<b>PHILADELPHIA 2'</b> ED Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	<b>PLAZA</b> The biggest cinema production <b>TITANIC</b> Shows: 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30 p.m.	<b>CONCORD</b> CONCORD 1 Farouq Fikhar & Wafa Amr ... in <b>HANHEB WANNAB</b> (ARABIC) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD 2 ISMAILIA RAYEH GAI - KAMANANA Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	<b>GALLERIA 2</b> ABDOUN <b>FORGET PARIS</b> & still showing evenings <b>TITANIC</b>	<b>GALLERIA 1</b> ABDOUN <b>THE MIRROR HAS TWO FACES</b> & still showing evenings <b>TITANIC</b>	<b>Hisham Yanes Theatre</b> TEL: 4625155 <b>STARTING APRIL 6TH</b> <b>Don't Laugh Please</b> We're Jordanian Starring Hisham Yanes, Amal Dabbas, Ramia Kurdi and the group at 8:30 p.m. For reservations call: 4640155, 4625155
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## Sports

### Utah crus

SALT LAKE CITY (AFP) — Karl Malone scored 29 points and the Utah Jazz's bench unleashed an attack on Saturday in a 101-90 rout of the Los Angeles Lakers in Game One of the National Basketball Association's Western Conference semi-finals.

Malone scored more on Saturday than he did in the previous game as he shot 11 of 15 from the field and 9 of 11 from the free-throw line. After scoring 19 points in the first half, Malone quieted down in the second half, but he scored 10 points in the third quarter and 11 in the fourth.

"We had a game plan," Malone said. "We knew we were going to win. We were going to make the game ours. We were going to control the game. We were going to win."

The Jazz, who won the first half, led 45-35 at the break.

Malone's first half performance was a key factor in the Jazz's victory. He scored 11 points in the first half and 11 in the second half. He also scored 11 points in the third quarter and 11 in the fourth quarter.

Utah's victory was a significant one for the Jazz. They are now one win away from the Western Conference Finals. They will play the Los Angeles Lakers in Game Two on Sunday.

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# Sports

Jordan Times, Monday, May 18, 1998 11

## Utah crush Lakers in series opener

SALT LAKE CITY (AFP) — Karl Malone scored 29 points and the Utah Jazz's bench unleashed an attack of its own Saturday in a 112-77 rout of the Los Angeles Lakers in Game One of the National Basketball Association semi-final series.

Malone relied more on jumpers than his inside power game as he shot 11-of-21 from the field and grabbed 10 rebounds. After a relatively quiet first half, he scored 16 points in the third quarter as he lured the 7-2 O'Neal away from the basket.

"We had a game plan," Malone said. "You have to be willing to stick to the game plan and try to make things happen. But you can't allow yourself to be too excited about it."

The Jazz did not need Malone in the first half because their reserves trampled the Lakers, helping build a 30-point lead. Guard Howard Easley and much-maligned forward Chris Morris led the way, combining for 16 points in the first 3:10 of the second quarter.

Easley finished with 14 points and Morris added 10, all in the first half. Reserves Antoine Carr and Shandon Anderson also had 10 points apiece and Anderson grabbed 11 rebounds. Utah's subs outscored the Lakers' reserves, 53-27, and Easley handed out nine assists.

"Early on in the game I had some pretty good looks at the basket," Easley said.

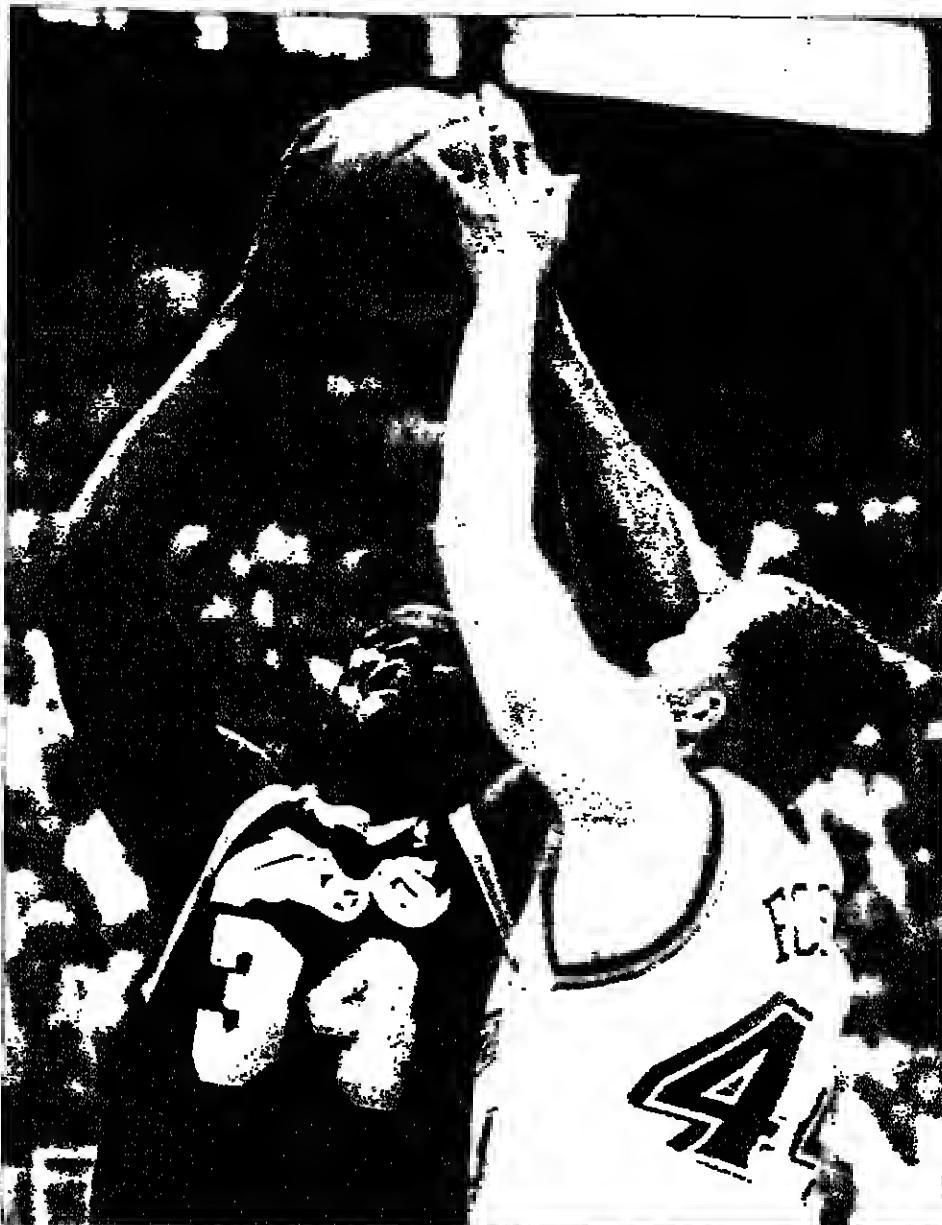
"Fortunately, shots were going in."

"Howard played pretty much all through last year in the playoffs like that and I think he was a little disappointed that he hadn't shot the ball better, but he certainly shot it well today," Jazz coach Jerry Sloan said.

"That was a huge lift for us. Not only did he make shots, but he got the ball to people that were open where they could have an opportunity to take decent shots."

The Jazz also got a big effort from Greg Foster, who harassed Shaquille O'Neal into an awful start and outscored him as Utah set the tone in the first quarter. O'Neal was averaging 29.9 points on 64 per cent shooting before today, when he managed 19 points on 6-of-16 shooting and committed seven turnovers. Foster had 10 points and five rebounds.

"I just tried to play position," Foster said. "More than anything I did out there, I think he just missed



Utah Jazz center Greg Foster (R) gets a hand up to apply pressure to Los Angeles Lakers center Shaquille O'Neal (L) during the first quarter. The Jazz defence held O'Neal to only 5 points in the first half (Reuters photo)

some shots he normally makes."

"I kind of see how they're going to let us play now and that's fine with me," said O'Neal, who shot 7-of-16 from the line. "I just hope that a couple of people don't get their noses broken. I'll be throwing elbows, 'cause they're coming up (with their elbows) oow. That's it."

It was the Lakers' worst playoff loss in franchise history, surpassing a 148-114 loss at Boston in Game One of the 1985 NBA Finals. Utah matched the third-largest playoff win in team history.

"It wasn't pretty, folks — a bad combination with one team playing great and one team playing lousy," Lakers coach Del Harris said.

"That's why they call this a series. If this was high school, we'd be out."

The Jazz, who are trying to return to the NBA Finals, have won seven of their last eight playoff games and handed Los Angeles their first loss since Game One of

the conference semifinals against Seattle. The Lakers quickly rebounded to win the next four games of that series.

"I don't think this game is any indication of what we have to look forward to," Sloan said. "We know who we are playing against."

Bryon Russell scored 10 points and John Stockton added nine and nine assists for the Jazz, who shot 54 per cent (43-of-80) from the field and held a 51-39 rebounding edge.

Kobe Bryant scored 16 points and Rick Fox added 15 for the Lakers, who shot 29.5 per cent (23-of-78), including 4-of-23 from three-point range.

Bryant, Nick Van Exel and Joo Barry were a combined 0-of-14 from behind the arc. Utah scored the first six points and was off and running as Los Angeles stumbled early and never got untracked. The Jazz opened a 17-7 lead with 3:34 to go on a three-point play by Morris.

Foster, giving 70 pounds

to O'Neal, outscored him 4-0 in the opening period. O'Neal missed all four of his shots and found himself in a trash-talking episode with the journeyman center.

"I'm just going to start flaring my elbows," O'Neal said. "To become a Hall of Famer, I'm just going to start flaring my elbows. ... If they're going to let other people throw elbows, then we're going to throw elbows."

The Jazz shot 58 per cent (11-of-19) in the first quarter and held the Lakers to 21 per cent (4-of-21) while opening a 24-13 lead.

"They came out with a lot of energy and I think it kind of caught us off guard," Bryant said. "We didn't expect such a veteran team to come out with so much energy at the beginning of the game."

Reigning champions Chicago continue their quest for a sixth title in eight years on Sunday, when they host Indiana in Game One of their Eastern Conference series.

## Jordan 3rd at Asian Taekwondo Championship

Delegation returns Wednesday with 6 medals

By Aileen Bannayan  
and Ibrahim Haddadin  
Special to the Jordan Times

THE KINGDOM'S men's taekwondo team Sunday added another bronze medal to take third place at the thirteenth Asian Taekwondo Championship which concluded in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

The women also grabbed their first bronze by Alisar Matar whose win placed Jordan ninth among 21 countries making up for considerably unimpressive performances by the rest of her teammates.

Sunday's two medals brought to six (four bronze and two silver) the total number of medals Jordan won in the three-day competition.

Mohammad Farajeh took bronze in the 70-76-kilogramme category after winning two matches before losing to Korea's gold medal winner Yong Mo 3-1.

On his way to the final, Farajeh beat his Australian opponent 4-1 and China's Li Tao 3-1.

Jordan's Faris Omari was eliminated from the second round.

Matar, a gold medalist at the Pan-Arab Games, beat

her Australian opponent 3-1 but lost to the Korean champion 4-0 in the 47-54-kilogramme category.

Fatimah Sayyad lost to her Japanese opponent 4-1. Jordan had won another four medals earlier in the competition. Mohammed Falah and Hussein Tahleh won two silver medals while Ibrahim Aqil and Mohammad Abul Ruz won bronze.

The championship marks the first participation of Jordanian referees in an international event. Referee Fuad Jarwan officiated three matches and was the only Arab referee.

The next Asian championship is expected to take place in 2000 in Hong Kong. The qualifiers are to be held in the Philippines in August 1999.

### Men's team's final standings

First	South Korea
Second	Chinese Taipei
Third	Jordan
Fourth	Iran
Fifth	Vietnam

## Kournikova, Novotna out of German Open

BERLIN (AFP) — Anna Kournikova failed to follow up her victory over Martina Hingis when she was beaten 6-0, 6-1 by Conchita Martinez in the semi-finals of the German Open.

And French qualifier Amelie Mauresmo continued her fairytale run when she upset third seeded Jana Novotna 7-5, 5-7, 6-4 to reach her first major final.

There was little resemblance between the Kournikova who outplayed Hingis in the quarter-finals and the one who capitulated in a tidal wave of errors to the seventh-seeded Spaniard in the semis.

The 16-year-old Russian had no feel for the ball at all, and only occasionally demonstrated the exquisite skills that has made her so impressive against the World No. 1. She won just five points on serve in the first set and didn't hold serve until the 10th game.

The pair had played twice this year, with Martinez winning at Indian Wells and Kournikova claiming victory the following week at Key Biscayne. But those contests were on hardcourt, and Martinez prefers the clay where she can better employ her heavy topspin.

That served to deny Kournikova the pace she needed, and although the Spaniard did not hit the ball especially hard, Kournikova had great difficulty returning it effectively, especially on the high bounce.

"I tried to change the pace a little bit and to play topspin with my slice backhand, and to be aggressive and move around. She likes to play when somebody gives her pace, and I have a totally different game and was trying to use it well, said Martinez, who won in just 51 minutes.

"It really worked out well. My balls were going deep and I was very happy with the way I played. If I play like I did today then I think I have a very good chance in the final."

Kournikova denied she had suffered a let-down after her win over Hingis on Friday, the first time she had conquered the world number one in five attempts. Instead, the number of matches she had played, two of them late into the evening, had taken their toll.



Conchita Martinez

"I had difficult matches against Arantxa (Sanchez Vicario) and Martina, and I played three sets of doubles two days in a row, so I was a little bit tired probably," said 14th seeded Kournikova.

"But Conchita played unbelievable and there was little I could do. She didn't give me any chances and made no unforced errors. She's one of the best clay court players, and the style of game I played in the other matches was totally different and it was difficult to get used to hers."

Having talked earlier in the week about learning to be more patient, Kournikova instead failed to maintain many of the rallies for long, going for winners but instead usually making an unforced error. But she claimed she had no choice.

"I had to do something," she said. "Either I had to go for winners or I had to stay with Conchita keeping the ball in play, and of course I chose to go for winners or I could go 20 or 30 times and would make one mistake and she would win the point anyway."

Mauresmo's victory over Novotna put her into the history books as she became the lowest ranked player to beat two of the top three players (second-ranked Lindsay Davenport in the quarter-finals

and third-ranked Novotna in the semis), the first qualifier to reach a Tier One final, and the second-lowest ranked player to reach a Tier One final after Jennifer Capriati in her debut tournament.

While Novotna has long endured a 'choker' tag, it appeared as if Mauresmo would adopt the role instead as she struggled to close out the match. She led 5-2 in the second set, served for victory twice and held two match points, but was denied as Novotna took advantage of a succession of errors and rallied to take the battle into a deciding set.

"Mauresmo made so many easy mistakes and it wasn't really a hard battle to get back to 5-all and save a couple of match points," said Novotna. "Everything suddenly became very easy. Before that I really had to work very hard, but I expected that she would cool down a little."

Mauresmo again built a 4-1 lead in the third set, only to see

Novotna level at 4-all. But Mauresmo then broke for 5-4 and eventually clinched victory after two hours 27 minutes on her sixth match point.

It was an impressive performance from Mauresmo, who is acutely aware of the narrow line between success and failure after she was 5-1 and match point down in the third set of her final qualifying match. From the brink of disaster, the 18-year-old will instead improve her ranking from 65 to 33 by reaching the final, and to 30 if she beats Martinez.

"It was just two or three close points I won that made the difference," said Mauresmo. "She took the initiative a lot but I tried to do the same and it worked, and at the beginning of the third set I went to the net a lot and I think that disturbed her."

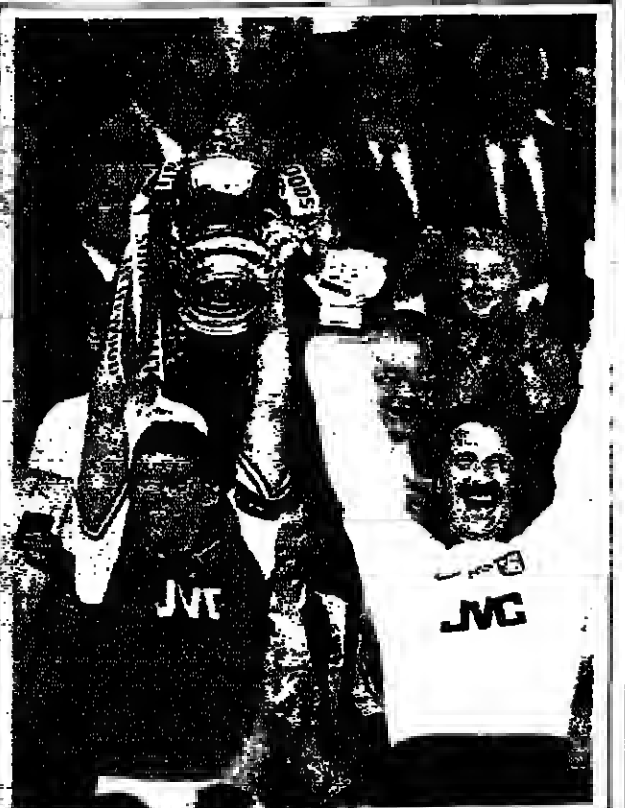
After she had lost the second set after being so close to victory it needed a special effort to lift herself for another set.

"I was very disappointed to lose the second set," she admitted. "I felt so down, but then we had a toilet break and I told myself to give everything in the third set, and I won."

Novotna had beaten Mauresmo in Linz earlier this year, but that was indoors and she was unsure how she would play on clay.

"She's obviously a very good clay court player. She has a very good serve and she plays with high topspin from both sides which makes it very difficult to play her, and she moves very well. She will definitely be hard to beat in the future," said Novotna, who has now lost four semi-finals in Berlin.

"It always felt that when I was behind I started to play my best tennis. I think it was a fantastic match and in the end it could have gone both ways. But I can only be happy with the way I have played over the whole week, and it's been pretty good preparation for the French."



Arsenal's goalkeeper David Seaman (R) looks on as Arsenal captain Tony Adams lifts the FA Cup. Arsenal defeated Newcastle United 2-0 at Wembley to win the double (Reuters photo)

**GOREN BRIDGE**

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
AND TAMARA HIRSCH  
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**WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ**

Q. 1 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

AKQ84 CAQ10653 CJ AA2

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1	Pass	1A	Pass

What do you bid now?

Q. 2 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

AK8732 C863 AS45

Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What action do you take?

Q. 3 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

AJ7522 CJ C985 AKQ6

Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?

Q. 4 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

AAKJ103 CK854 CK105 46

Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you bid now?

Q. 5 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

AJ8532 Q63 CJ62 AK9

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Pass	Pass	1C	Pass

What do you bid now?

Q. 6 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

AQ63 CKQ106 0832 4A8

The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1A	Pass	?	?

What do you respond?

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A Jordanian Royal Guard watches two British Royal Air Force 'Red Arrow' jets sweep past during a display at a military airport in Amman Sunday. Red Arrow pilots are selected from Royal Air Force fast-jet pilots and must have at least six years of front-line flying experience (Reuters photo)

## Bahrain minister says no leniency for 'saboteurs'

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain has contained three years of anti-government unrest in a civilised manner, but there would be no leniency for those who carry out acts of sabotage, the Bahraini interior minister said in remarks published on Sunday.

"Security practices have contained the situation in a civilised manner with restraint, patience and wisdom," Sheikh Mohammad bin Khalifa Al Khalifa told Bahrain's Akhbar Al Khaleej newspaper.

"We reiterate our stand against saboteurs who seek to destabilise the security in the

country. There will be no leniency for he who kills, sets fire or seeks to destroy the country's economy and its interest," Sheikh Mohammad said.

Members of Bahrain's majority Shiite Muslim community have launched sporadic protests, bombings, arson attacks and violence since December 1994 to demand political and economic reforms by the Sunni-led government.

Sheikh Mohammad denied opposition charges that thousands of people had been detained during the unrest which had shaken the island.

the Gulf's main financial and banking hub.

"Bahrain is a small country and incidents of sabotage and rioting were few and isolated. A few hundred people were involved. Even at the peak of disturbances a little over 1,000 were held," Sheikh Mohammad said.

More than 30 people have been killed in the unrest, hundreds have been detained and some have been deported.

Seven Shiite activists, including prominent Shiite leader Sheikh Abdel-Amir Al Jassbi, have been in jail since their arrest in 1996 on charges of fuelling riots in the country.

## Israeli general denounces top army appointments

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's military and political establishment was in an uproar Sunday after a senior general publicly denounced the defence minister for naming a rival to the post of army chief of staff.

"A foul deed was committed at the beginning of the week, it is not a secret, I would even call it a dirty trick," said General Matan Vilnai of the appointment last week of General Shaul Mofaz as army chief.

Gen. Vilnai, who preceded Gen. Mofaz as deputy army chief of staff before taking a brief leave of absence, mentioned no names in his remarks to a student group on Friday.

But his venom was clearly aimed at Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who many said passed over Gen. Vilnai to choose the less experienced Gen. Mofaz because of long-time rivalry between the two men.

Gen. Vilnai was notably named deputy chief of staff in 1995 instead of Mr. Mordechai, who subsequently quit the army and joined the right-wing Likud Party of Benjamin Netanyahu.

His remarks sparked immediate condemnation by fellow officers and officials across the political spectrum.

Mr. Mordechai's office described Gen. Vilnai's statements as "an outburst of anger" and declined to get involved in a public debate.

But outgoing army chief, General Amnon Shahak, was less reserved.

"Soldiers in uniform should keep their mouths shut in public and should deal only with army issues in the fields of their authority," he said.

## Cotti, in Israel, seeks 'favourable result' on Holocaust accounts

TEL AVIV (AP) — By keeping the atmosphere positive, Israel can help ease tensions with the Swiss over the emotional issue of compensating Jews who lost assets during the Holocaust, visiting Swiss President Flavio Cotti said Sunday.

"If we want to reach a favourable result, it is more than necessary that we have the best atmosphere possible. We should also recognise what Switzerland has already done," Mr. Cotti told a group of Knesset members during the Israel leg of a four-day tour which includes the West Bank, Gaza, and Jordan.

The Swiss have come under mounting pressure from Jewish organisations to compensate the heirs of Holocaust victims who claimed Swiss banks held assets of their relatives who perished at the hands of the Nazis.

Mr. Cotti's first stop in Israel was the national Holocaust memorial, Yad Vashem.

Donning a black skullcap, his head bowed, Mr. Cotti placed a wreath at a crypt of ashes and dust collected from the concentration camps where 6 million Jews were killed.

"We are all together, all the

civilised people together, committed that such dramatic historical events as the Holocaust will never be repeated," Mr. Cotti said.

Speaker of the Knesset Dan Tichon welcomed Mr. Cotti as the first Swiss president to visit Israel but warned him that Israel would not back down on the restitution of Holocaust victims and their heirs.

"Our opinions are immovable. I ask you to do all that is possible so that this issue can be advanced," Mr. Tichon said.

Thomas Borer, who heads a government task force examining Switzerland's World War II dealings, was travelling with Mr. Cotti in Israel and tried to downplay the tensions between the world Jewish community and "I think there is no rift between world Jewry and the Swiss," Mr. Borer said.

"There may be some kind of rift between one or two Jewish organisations and Switzerland," American and British reports have pinpointed Switzerland as the largest dealer in Nazi gold, handling \$400 million of the precious metal. Jewish groups assert that Swiss banks have made public only a small part of the unclaimed accounts of Holocaust vic-

times.

Lawmaker Avraham Hirschson, who heads a Knesset panel on restitution for Holocaust victims, stressed the urgency of recovery assets from Swiss banks.

"If we had the money now, we could use it for survivors during their final years so they can have a better life," Mr. Hirschson said.

Israeli-Swiss relations have also been troubled recently by a recent failed Mossad spy mission that almost derailed the Mr. Cotti visit.

Five Mossad agents were caught in February trying to bug an apartment building in the Swiss capital. One agent, caught with wiretapping equipment, was held until late April and only released after Israel paid some \$2 million in bail. Israel also apologised.

On a visit to Gaza on Friday, Mr. Cotti met with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and expressed his concern over last week's Israeli-Palestinian clashes that left five Palestinians dead and hundreds hurt.

The Swiss leader is travelling with a 20-member delegation including Swiss foreign ministry officials, parliament members and business leaders.

## Palestinians demand compensation for victims of Israeli shooting

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) demanded Sunday that Israel pay compensation for people killed by Israeli troops last week during demonstrations in the Gaza Strip and West Bank to mark the 50th anniversary of Israel's creation.

"The Israeli government, and — in particular Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, should give an official apology for these attacks and killings and pay compensation," said Imad Trawiya, director general of the PNA health ministry.

Palestinian police initially said nine Palestinians were killed by Israeli army gunfire during Thursday's mass protests to mark Al Nakbeh, "the catastrophe," which resulted for Arabs with the creation of Israel.

But a Palestinian official, Suifan Abu Zaidan, said Sunday that after investigation it was determined that four were killed in the Gaza Strip and another man died of a bullet wound to the head outside the West Bank city of Ramallah.

During a press conference in Gaza City, Mr. Trawiya accused Israeli troops of opening fire on an ambulance and killing a medic inside the vehicle, Zamel Al Wahidi, 53.

"The medic was killed inside the ambulance, which is clear evidence that there was intention to kill," he said.

Doctor Abdul Razzaq, the chief coroner for the Gaza Strip, said autopsies revealed that the Gaza victims had all been killed by hollow-point bullets, which flatten on contact, causing much greater damage than normal shells.

"We call on the international community and human rights organisations to help stop these inhumane and illegal practices," Mr. Trawiya said.

The Israeli army said in a statement issued Sunday that its troops only used live ammunition during the Gaza protests when they felt that their lives were endangered.

It charged that Palestinians had shot towards Israeli army positions and thrown grenades and gasoline bombs at the soldiers during the protests.

A Palestinian human rights group said its investigation of the fighting found that more than 200 Palestinians had been wounded by live ammunition or rubber-coated metal bullets, 50 per cent of them in the chest and head.

Around 20 Palestinians were still in hospital Sunday, three of them in serious condition.

## Netanyahu says Israel alone to set south Lebanon withdrawal terms

NEW YORK (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Saturday that Israel alone would set terms for withdrawing from Lebanon and that at least one more Middle East peace treaty may be possible by the year 2000.

Speaking to more than 1,000 conservative Jews in a New York synagogue, Mr. Netanyahu said the Oslo peace accord specifies that Israel must decide from which land it can afford to withdraw.

"It also says Israel and Israel

alone should make that determination. Who should decide on Israel's security? Israel," said Mr. Netanyahu to enthusiastic applause.

Israel occupies a 15-km-wide "security zone" on the Lebanese side of the border, aided by its South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia allies, to prevent guerrilla attacks against northern Israel.

Mr. Netanyahu told U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan on Friday that Israel was serious about accepting a U.N. resolution calling for its withdrawal

from Lebanon, "under conditions of international peace and security."

Lebanon refuses to enter negotiations with Israel on a pullout, arguing the 1978 resolution whose acceptance Israel first announced on April 1, requires it to withdraw unconditionally.

Mr. Netanyahu added in his remarks on Saturday that progress on peace was possible, but only if Palestinian President Yasser Arafat won legislative approval of language recognising Israel's right to exist.

## Jackson to stage benefit concert in Seoul

BEVERLY HILLS (AP) — Pop star Michael Jackson announced plans for a benefit concert in Seoul and an appearance in Korea's demilitarised zone as part of an effort to raise money for needy children.

The Oct. 11 concert in Seoul would be the first in a series of concerts to benefit the World Peace Foundation for Children, which Jackson set up to provide aid to children and families around the world.

Jackson will be joined by tenor Luciano Pavarotti and actress Elizabeth Taylor at the concert.

Funds raised will be handed out to children and families hurt by a severe flood that struck North Korea in 1995.

## Travolta has 'the most squishy, delicious lips'

NEW YORK (AP) — Kelly Preston has smooched some of the sexiest actors in Hollywood. Her favourite is the guy she kisses all the time. Husband John Travolta puckers up like nobody else, the actress who played Tom Cruise's girlfriend in "Jerry Maguire" and once lived with George Clooney says in the June issue of Redbook magazine. "He's got the most squishy, delicious lips, I swear," said Preston, 35. "They are dreamy! They are just... you get drunk on them. He's the best kisser I've ever kissed."

## Bullock grateful for 'Speed 2' flop

NEW YORK (AP) — Sandra Bullock is grateful she hit the big time in the thriller "Speed." She's just as grateful the sequel bombed. "I'll be the first one to tell you it was a stinker," Bullock says of "Speed 2" in Sunday's Parade magazine. "Having it not do well was a blessing in a way. It gave me the ammo to be able to say, 'No! Let's not do it that way.'" Bullock has starred in such films as "While You Were Sleeping," "A Time to Kill" and "In Love and War." Upcoming is "Hope Floats" and "Practical Magic," costarring Nicole Kidman.

## DiCaprio jumps ship to play serial killer

CANNES (AFP) — Leonardo DiCaprio is set for a radical change of image after agreeing to play a yuppie serial killer in the first starring role he has committed himself to since the billion-dollar "Titanic" film execs in Cannes said. DiCaprio is to star in a controversial \$10 million adaptation of Brett Easton Ellis' novel "American Psycho," due to begin shooting in the autumn. Brad Pitt and Matt Damon had previously been interested. The novel, adapted by Mary Harron, tells the story of a young New York stockbroker who leads a parallel life as a twisted, vicious murderer.

## Redford mulls next project

NEW YORK (AP) — Robert Redford is mulling his next project now that "The Horse Whisperer" is done, and he doesn't rule out a working reunion with old pal Paul Newman. The duo teamed to success in "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" and "The Sting," and they've talked about working together again. But only on the right job. "There hasn't been anything worthwhile to come along," Redford said in a recent interview. "It's not that we're against it. We're for it." But they're not interested in sequels. "Very often the original is the best, and you let 'em alone," he said.

## Jakarta braces for more protests, armed forces commander summoned

JAKARTA (AP) — The riot-scarred Indonesian capital braced Sunday for a new round of demonstrations, while Indonesian President Suharto summoned his military commander to review the country's precarious internal security.

Tanks and troops were deployed throughout Jakarta, which enjoyed a day of rest after massive rioting that left 500 dead and swaths of destruction in its wake.

One of Mr. Suharto's former top aides, Sarwono Kusumaatmaja, urged the embattled leader to step down.

The Jakarta Post on Sunday reported fresh riots in the central Java towns of Boyolali, Karanganyar and Sukoharjo the previous day. A riot in the central town of Solo killed 28, most of them looters trapped by an arson fire in a shopping centre.

Jakarta officials scheduled a mass funeral Monday for the charred, unclaimed remains of hundreds of rioters who were also killed by arson fires in luxury shopping malls they were plundering.

University students in Jakarta promised a new round of protest marches, as early as Monday or Tuesday. The university students from the only nationwide bloc opposing the Suharto regime.

General Wiranto, the nation's highest military commander, went on national television Sunday, asking the students to cancel any street demonstrations.

Japan's Foreign Ministry, in urging its citizens to flee Jakarta, said they feared a new round of riots Wednesday, the anniversary of Indonesia's independence movement.

The British government also advised its citizens to leave by Wednesday, because of the "possibility of further unrest around May 20, particularly in the major cities."

Thousands of foreigners were streaming out of the country, including Americans, Danes and Malaysians leaving aboard hastily arranged evacuation flights.

Mr. Suharto summoned Gen. Wiranto, who is also the Indonesian defence minister, to a meeting Monday morning, according to sources at the presidential palace who spoke to the Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Gen. Wiranto, 52, enjoys popular support. Yet, Mr. Suharto may well hold him accountable for the deaths of six student protesters whose killings on Tuesday touched off four days of riots in the capital.

Mr. Suharto has already promised a speedy reshuffling of his cabinet. The president is expected to dump a few government ministers who have aroused the greatest public ire as the country staggers through its worst economic crisis in decades.

Mr. Suharto is coming under increasing pressure to ease his 32-year-old grip over this sprawling country of 202 million people.

Indonesia controls all or part of every major waterway between the Pacific and Indian Oceans. For U.S. warships in the Pacific to make it to the Arab Gulf, they need Jakarta's permission to transit Indonesian waters.

More than half of all international shipping traverses Indonesian waters. Beyond that, Indonesia is the world's largest Islamic country and the fourth most populous nation.

Sarwono Kusumaatmaja, who once served as environment minister and as an aide to Mr. Suharto, told the Jakarta Post that Mr. Suharto should step down.

"As a former aide of his, I will be sad and I pity him if he stays for his own interests, because we already know that he's increasingly becoming part of the problem," Mr. Sarwono told the Post.

Jakarta residents, frightened into their homes by the marauding mobs, came out to survey the destruction.

Hundreds of stores were stripped bare, and many had been set on fire. Thousands of windows were smashed by rocks, and automatic teller machines had been ripped from walls and emptied. The streets were strewn with shattered glass and littered with burned-out cars.

More than 1,000 rioters and looters were arrested in this hot, gritty metropolis of 11 million people.

## Former aide: I pity him if he stays for his own interests



People line up in front of an Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) in Jakarta Sunday to withdraw cash. Some ATMs reopened today after they were closed following looting and ransacking in the recent rioting. Hundreds of people queued at the few cash machines in operation as the bank imposed limit of about 50,000 rupiah (\$45) on each withdrawal (AFP photo)

Turkey: Netanyahu has

NETANYAHU (AP) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal said Monday that he would not support a peace process in the Middle East peace process. In an independent daily Al Qabas, Mr. Ozal wrote that he would not support a peace process. "I am not one of the few countries in the world which has full relations with Israel," he said. "I have a military cooperation agreement with Israel."

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## King de

By Francesca Ciriaci  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

JOHANNESBURG — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday met with the presidents of professional associations and later declared a new chapter has been opened in the strained relations between the government and the unions.

The king, who turned 60 on Sunday, met with the presidents of 13 unions, mostly dominated by Muslims and leftists.

Relations between the king and the government have been sour since last year, when the 200-strong Union of Professional Associations (UPA) accused the king of mismanagement.

Albright, Arafat

Netanyahu

accepting

Combined agency  
dispatches

HASTILY arranged meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on Sunday failed to find a way out of the impasse in the Middle East peace process.

He didn't achieve a breakthrough. On the contrary, we are working hard to overcome differences," U.S. State Department spokesman James Rubin said.

Albright was more direct in fielding a question on a breakthrough. "I'll see. We had good substantive talks," she said.

Albright said nothing as the Church Hill Hotel for the 90-minute meeting.

President Bill Clinton's officials and Mr. Arafat had played down the importance of the meeting.

A mediator Dennis Austin, an Israeli diplomat, explained Mr. Arafat's reluctance to meet with Clinton.

Albright already was scheduled to brief Mr. Clinton on the intensive U.S. efforts to persuade Mr. Arafat to hand over an estimated 13 per cent of the West Bank to Israel.

Mr. Arafat flew in from Oslo, Norway, where he had earlier in the day hoped his meeting

with Mr. Clinton would be the first step towards a breakthrough.

"I hope something about the place between Netanyahu and Arafat will be the first step towards a breakthrough," U.S. State Department spokesman James Rubin said.

"The consensus is that reaching a breakthrough is a matter of time for all," he said.

The chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives, Dennis Hasten, said that he was "optimistic" about the prospects for a breakthrough.

(Continued)

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